

MADONNA

The princess and the price of fame

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SIMON JENKINS

Why the people are so moved by Diana's death

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The Times media editor

NEW WEEKLY COLUMN

PAGE 23

Win hardware and software worth over £2,000



Five years' jail possible in Princess case

Paparazzi are charged with manslaughter

FROM CHARLES BREMNER AND STEPHEN FARRELL IN PARIS

SIX photographers and a motorcycle courier who allegedly chased Diana, Princess of Wales, and Dodi Fayed to their deaths in Paris are to face manslaughter charges.

The seven, who were detained at the scene of the crash early on Sunday, will also be charged with failing to help the victims. Police reports yesterday described the photographers' behaviour as "violent" as they clamoured to take pictures of the wrecked car and its occupants.

The manslaughter charges were brought by the investigating judge Hervé Stéphan in spite of evidence that the man driving the Mercedes was drunk and against the advice of the state prosecutor who said there was no evidence that the photographers had forced the Princess's car off the road. Officials said that the alleged inebriated state of Henri Paul did not detract from the gravity of the conduct of the pressmen.

Lawyers for the photographers complained, however, that their clients were being made scapegoats because of the victims' celebrity and the need for a show trial. At least two of the men were said to have arrived at the scene after the police, including the Sigma agency's award-winning war photographer Jacques Langevin whose lawyer said he had "happened upon the accident" while driving home.

Apart from M. Langevin, those charged were Romuald Rat, 30, of the Gamma Agency; Christian Martinez, 35, who works for Daniel Angeli — the man who took the pictures of the Duchess of York sucking John Bryan's toes; Nicholas Arsov, 30, of Sipa; the freelancers Serge Arnal, 35, and Laszlo Veres, 48; and the Gamma driver Stephen Darmon, 30.

The seven were all told by M. Stéphan that they were being "placed under examination" on charges of involuntary homicide — the lesser of two manslaughter offences — and

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with non-assistance to endangered persons.

Under the French legal system, however, the bringing of initial charges is a less definitive step than in England. The examining judge will not decide until after an investigation lasting several months whether the case should actually go to court. If it did, the men would be judged by a lower-level criminal court without a jury and if convicted they would face a maximum of five years in jail.

All seven were released last night pending the further investigations, after M. Stéphan overruled prosecutors who said that the behaviour of M. Martinez and M. Rat had been "so deplorable" that they should be held in custody.

Police reports leaked yesterday said that officers had to call in reinforcements to deal with the photographers, who had put up strong resistance when told to move away. One was quoted as saying: "Let me do my job. In Sarajevo, the cops let us work." Further evidence from closed-circuit television cameras, confiscated photographs and eye-witness accounts had established that the photographers had obstructed police work as they took pictures of the car.

So far, the only hard evidence gathered by police concerns events after the accident and investigators have still not confirmed claims by lawyers acting for Mohamed Al Fayed that the photographers had provoked the accident that killed his son.

Bernard Darteville, acting for Mr Al Fayed, had pressed for the men to face the more serious manslaughter offence

of "delivering fatal blows", and yesterday the Harrods owner filed a civil suit that will allow him to take part in any trial involving the photographers and to claim reparation if they are convicted.

The lawyer Georges Kiejman said that he had informed the investigating magistrate and asked for the inquiry to be widened to include counts of a possible violation of privacy. "This is a very important chapter in the tragedy and there is a causal link," he said. "There was a chase without which the driver would neither have taken that route nor used that speed." Another lawyer announced that the parents of M. Paul, the driver, had also filed a civil suit in the case.

Legal experts said that it had been almost inevitable that the photographers would face some charges, given the wealth of accounts of paparazzi swarming around the Mercedes as the police arrived. But William Bourdon, acting for M. Arsov, said: "If the victims had not been of such exceptional quality this litigation would never have been brought with such theatricality. I hope that the situation will become more calm. I think there have been some less rational factors in the last few days."

M. Bourdon said that his client had initially followed a decoy Range Rover driven by Mr Fayed's regular chauffeur in the Mercedes to deceive the pack of photographers. He had then doubled back and arrived at the scene after the police and ambulance.

A colleague of M. Martinez said the seven feared they would suffer from the all the publicity and accusations that were made before it emerged that M. Paul was drunk. "All the stories were wrong, but the damage has already been done," he said. "I appeared on television to defend my colleagues and our agency received death threats."



Andre Agassi walks off court after one of his US Open matches wearing a black ribbon for the Princess

Agassi launches Diana ribbon

ANDRE AGASSI and Greg Rusedski, the tennis stars, have started a trend by wearing black ribbons to mark the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, while competing in the US Open tennis tournament.

Aids charities patronised by the Princess, which raise awareness using red ribbons, have been inundated with calls from the public asking for black ribbons to mark her death.

Malcolm Fish, of Red Ribbon International, an Aids-awareness charity, said yesterday: "The black ribbon has been used by Oxford to highlight the massacres in Rwanda and in Spain to mark the murder of Miguel Angel Blanco by ETA earlier this year. People are now using it as a symbol of mourning for Princess Diana and we have been inundated with inquiries

from those who want to get one. As far as we know, no one is manufacturing them on a commercial basis. We are advising people to buy lengths of black ribbon and make their own."

Agassi wore his black ribbon on Sunday in his victory over Mark Woodforde of Australia; Rusedski copied the gesture for his victory on Monday over Daniel Vacek of the Czech Republic.

After the match, Rusedski said he hoped his victory would help to lift people's spirits in the wake of the deaths of "Princess Di is and was one of the most important, the most popular ladies in the world with the humanitarian causes she [supported], with Aids, landmines."

Rusedski said it was difficult to keep his mind on tennis. His black ribbon and the

Palace asks for one minute's silence

BY ALAN HAMILTON

BRITAIN is being invited to observe a minute's silence in memory of Diana, Princess of Wales, as her funeral at Westminster Abbey draws to a close shortly before noon on Saturday.

Buckingham Palace said last night that it could not give a precise time for the observation but it hoped the country would take its cue from radio, television and the public address system being installed along the processional route of the Princess's cortege. The service, which will be transmitted to a worldwide audience, is expected to end at about 11.45am.

Palace officials also announced yesterday the establishment of an official memorial fund to cope with the flood of donations from a public anxious to pay tribute to the Princess by contributing to her favourite causes. The fund's headquarters have been set up at Kensington Palace but no decisions have yet been made on how the money will be distributed.

At the same time Richard Branson, the Virgin entrepreneur, confirmed that he is working with the Princess's family to create a "super-charity" which will raise money for the Princess's favourite causes with a series of rock concerts.

With every fresh announcement, the royal funeral takes on yet more of the complexion of a full state occasion. It was confirmed yesterday that the Princess's body will be borne from St James's Palace, where it is resting in the privacy of the Chapel Royal, to the abbey on a gun carriage of the King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery, in the manner that Edward VII, George V and VI, the Duke of Windsor, Sir Winston Churchill and Earl Mountbatten of Burma made their

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Football row

The Government has asked for an explanation from the Scottish FA over why it was going ahead with a World Cup qualifier against Belarus on Saturday. Page 48

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Bank will charge £1 to queue

BY ANNE ASHWORTH

THE Abbey habit is growing a little more expensive from today, with charges for some customers for over-the-counter transactions.

The bank's 400,000 Instant Plus account holders will pay £1 every time that they withdraw money, ask for a mini statement or pay a bill. The Abbey National's aim is to encourage them to use cash machines, or the phone banking service.

A spokesman denied that the move was a "revenue raising exercise". He said that the Instant Plus, launched last year, was aimed at younger customers who were accustomed to technology. The account comes with a combined cash and debit card but no cheque book. It was intended that Instant Plus holders would not use branches but many were queuing to request statements or pay bills.

Rising England soccer star dropped after driving ban

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

RIO FERDINAND, the young West Ham defender, has been dropped from the England squad for the World Cup qualifying match against Moldova at Wembley next Wednesday. Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, dropped him after Ferdinand was convicted of a drink-driving offence yesterday.

Ferdinand, 18, was named in the squad last Friday and was widely expected to be making his international debut.

However, his celebrations on Saturday soon turned sour. He was stopped while driving with friends at lunchtime on



Ferdinand: guilty of drink-driving charge

Sunday. He was narrowly over the legal alcohol limit and yesterday was fined £500 and banned from driving for a year.

West Ham informed the Football Association of the conviction. The final decision rested with Hoddle and although Ferdinand will be allowed to train with the England squad this week, he will not play or be selected as a substitute.

The FA denied that the punishment was an over-reaction to the death of Diana, the Princess of Wales. Henri Paul, the chauffeur of the car in which she died, was found to have a blood-alcohol level more than twice the British limit.

"Rio's case has nothing to do with this," an FA spokesman said. "Glenn Hoddle has certain standards and he expects them to be adhered to. Rio overstepped the mark, he made a silly mistake."

Hoddle said later that he felt it necessary to administer a short, sharp shock. However, it is understood that Ferdinand's error will not harm his future international career. Had he made his debut, after winning only two England Under-21 caps, he would have been the youngest player in

the full side since Duncan Edwards, the Manchester United forward, in 1955.

Hoddle is likely to be criticised as in the past he has appeared to give the benefit of the doubt to several senior England players whose private lives have attracted lurid headlines.

Paul Gascoigne, the controversial Rangers midfielder, was still picked by England amid claims that he had beaten his wife, Sheryl, Tony Adams, the Arsenal defender, figured in Hoddle's plans after he had admitted a drink problem.

Clare Short will visit Montserrat

Clare Short, the International Development Secretary, made a tacit apology to Montserrat, agreeing to visit the volcano-ravaged colony within two months to oversee a long-term plan for the island's development. The announcement of the visit by George Foulkes, her deputy who ended his own tour of Montserrat yesterday, came after Ms Short's refusal of an invitation by the island's Government. Page 14

New Land Rover

The once-traditional, rather agricultural image associated with Land Rover received another jolt yesterday when the company unveiled its model for the GTi generation. The Freelander, ranging in price from £15,000 to £20,000, will be Land Rover's smallest and cheapest vehicle when it arrives in the showrooms in January. Page 9

Boy dies in dryer

A three-year-old boy suffocated after he climbed into a tumble dryer during a game of hide-and-seek and became stuck. His father had organised neighbours to look for the boy when he went missing. The police were called in an hour later and they found the body in the kitchen of the family's home in Newcastle upon Tyne. Page 11

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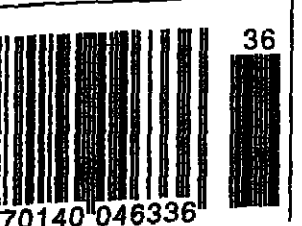
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PRINCESS: THE FUNERAL

Friends at odds with Palace on singing part for Elton John

DIFFERENCES of opinion over the final details for the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales, have emerged between Buckingham Palace and the Spencer family, particularly over whether Elton John should be invited to sing.

Buckingham Palace will decide today whether to invite the singer to contribute on Saturday. There is growing pressure for him to do so from friends of the Princess. Only last month the Princess was seen by millions of television viewers comforting the millionaire singer at the funeral of Gianni Versace, the designer, who was a friend of both.

The debate over John's appearance has underlined the difficulty in melding an occasion that has the dignity of a traditional royal event with meeting the public's expectations.

The decision is due to be taken today at the Palace at the daily meeting of officials chaired by the Lord Chamberlain, the Earl of Airlie.

But the organisers face a dilemma. A senior royal source said last night that the funeral arrangements must meet four clear, but potentially conflicting objectives: dignity for such a formal occasion; informality to satisfy public opinion and reflect the Princess's personality; the views of both families; and the maintenance of tradition.

The involvement of Elton John was discussed by the committee for the first time yesterday. There was no outright objection to the move, but officials made clear they were anxious that it might not set the right tone. Last night they were taking further soundings from both families. It was not clear if John might be asked to sing a traditional hymn or one of his own compositions.

Earl Spencer is expected to read the lesson at Westminster Abbey.

Discussions were also continuing with Martin Neary, the Westminster Abbey organist and master of choristers, over the musical content. The choir, a mixture of children and adults, will have a central role.

A friend of the Princess pressing for the inclusion of a more modern element into the traditional format said:

Royal aides believe a song by the rock star may set wrong tone, reports Valerie Elliott

"There is a debate going on. At the moment it will be a pretty formal affair. There are some people who feel it ought to be presented in a slightly different way. In other words, we want to incorporate the spirit of Diana."

The line-up expected at today's meeting will include Lord Airlie, Sir Robert Fellowes, the Queen's Private Secretary who is married to the Princess's elder sister, Lady Jane; Penny Russell-Smith, deputy press secretary to the Queen; Mark Bolland, assistant private secretary to the Prince of Wales; Sandy Henney, the Prince of Wales's press secretary; and Lieutenant-Colonel Malcolm Ross, the Comptroller responsible for co-ordinating the arrangements.

But soundings were still being taken last night about Elton John and over the choice of hymns and prayers for the service with members of the Royal Family at Balmoral, and with Lord Spencer, Lady Jane Fellowes, and the Princess's other sister, Lady Sarah McCorquodale.

Robin Janvin, the deputy private secretary to the Queen, and Stephen Lamport, the Prince of Wales's private secretary, are staying at Balmoral this week and liaising with officials in London.

Lord Spencer has been to see Lord Airlie about the arrangements and was in constant touch with his office yesterday.

Another close confidant of the Princess said last night: "I hope that the organisers are listening to Lady Sarah because she really was the closest to Diana. They were always so happy together and she would know exactly what Diana would want."

Last night a spokesman for Elton John confirmed that the

singer would be attending the funeral but said they had received no formal approach from the Palace or the Spencer family about the possibility of him singing at the funeral.

A number of people had, however, contacted Elton John's office suggesting it would be a good idea if he were included.

The Princess's friends believe that the pop singer's appearance would be doubly symbolic because of his appeal to young people and his shared interest with the Princess in supporting Aids sufferers. The singer has set up two charitable foundations in Britain and America which have raised more than £7 million. However, he may be too distressed to sing.

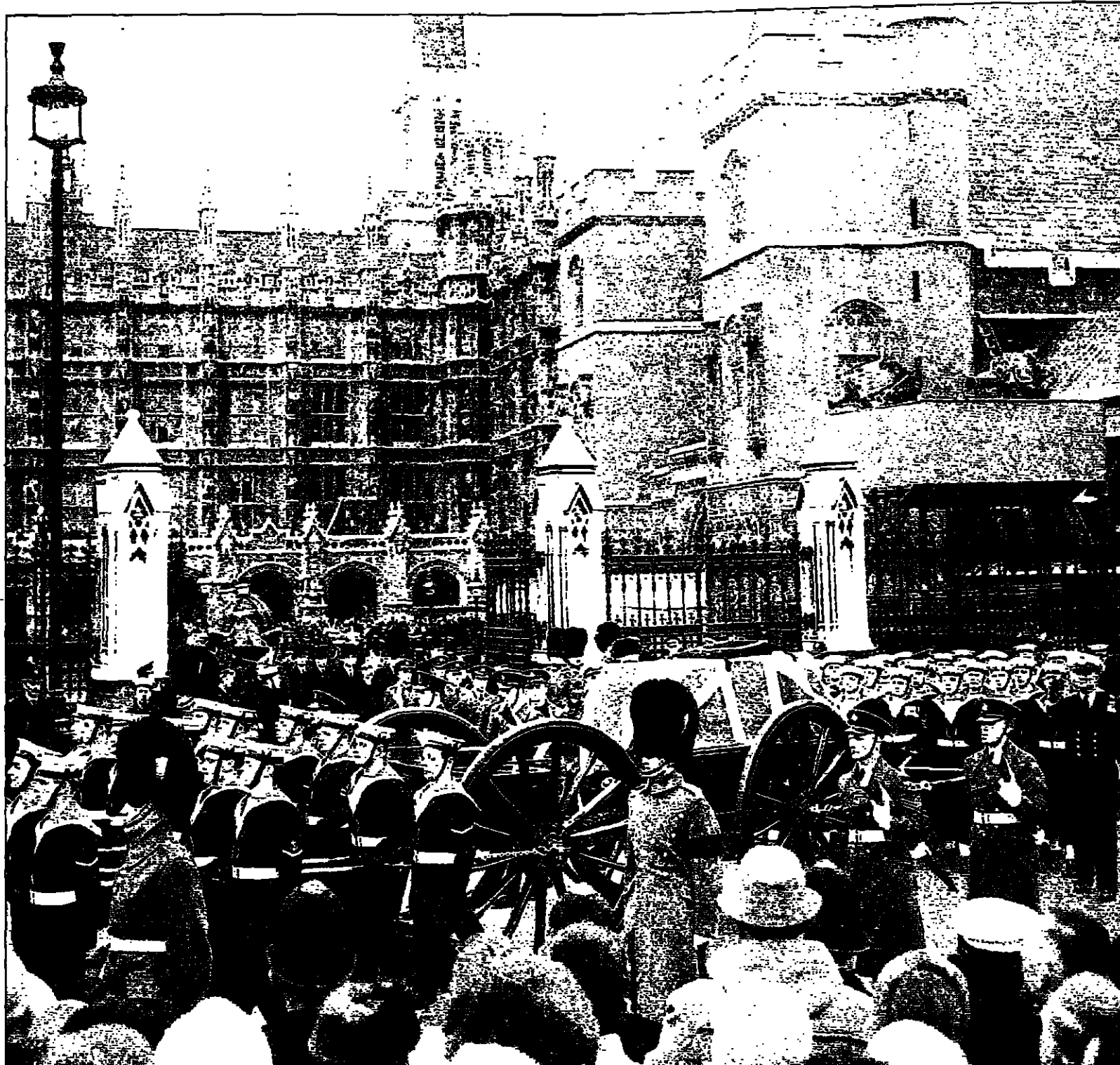
It is understood that Harvey Goldsmith, the impresario, was also in touch with the Palace to offer assistance in the provision of large screens to transmit the proceedings of the funeral to crowds gathering outside the Abbey.

Details of the family burial at the Church of St Mary the Virgin in Great Brington, Northamptonshire, were being closely guarded by the Spencer family yesterday.

The first invitations to the funeral service were made by telephone yesterday. Among the guests will be four former Prime Ministers: Sir Edward Heath, Lord Callaghan of Cardiff, Baroness Thatcher and John Major. However, it was unclear, whether Mohamed Al Fayed, the owner of Harrods, whose son Dodi was killed in the crash, will attend. His spokesman said that he might be too distressed to go.

Lord Attenborough, the film director, who was instrumental in encouraging the Princess to head the anti-landmines crusade: Lord Deedes, former Editor of *The Daily Telegraph*, who has accompanied the Princess on anti-landmines trips overseas are also likely to be invited.

Wayne Sleep, the dancer, and celebrity friends such as Sir David Frost, the veteran television interviewer, and Clive James, the broadcaster, are also believed to be included. It is understood that the Princess's Christmas card list was used to select members of the congregation.



A gun carriage of the Royal Horse Artillery carrying the coffin of Sir Winston Churchill past Parliament for his state funeral in 1965

King's Troop will carry the Princess on gun carriage

Mike Evans looks at servicemen who will accompany the coffin on procession route to Westminster Abbey

THE King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery will carry the coffin of Diana, Princess of Wales, to Westminster Abbey on a gun carriage of the type first used for the state funeral of King Edward VII in 1910.

Traditionally, a 13-pounder gun carriage has been used for state and military funerals. Queen Victoria was the first monarch to be given a parade-type funeral, using a gun carriage. However, the present gun carriage, which saw action in the First World War, was designed for the Royal Horse Artillery in 1904, three years after Queen Victoria's death.

The funeral duties will be performed by "F" subsection of the King's Troop, commanded by Captain Grant Chantler (RHA), the Left Section Commander.

Alongside will be the trace bearers, men from the King's Troop who will carefully watch the movement of the leather-coated steel wires that connect the horses to the gun carriage.

They will have to ensure that the traces keep off the ground in any tight turns, although there are no sharp corners envisaged on the route to the Abbey. These four men will be on foot.

Major Keith Brooks (RHA), the Commanding Officer of the King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery which was formed in 1947, has selected trace bearers with special trade skills to ensure that in the event of any accident or damage to the gun carriage, they can repair it. The trace bearers will include a master saddler and a master farrier.

All the members of "F" subsection of the King's



Queen Victoria: had first parade-type funeral

Next to him will be Captain Chantler (RHA), the Left Section Commander.

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All the members of "F" subsection of the King's

Troop will be wearing the full dress of the Royal Horse Artillery.

The coffin bearing the body of the Princess will sit on an oak board suspended a few inches above the 13lb gun barrel. It will lie along the length of the barrel.

The weight of the gun and limber combined is about 1½ tonnes but with the coffin, the oak board and brackets, the total weight will be about two tonnes.

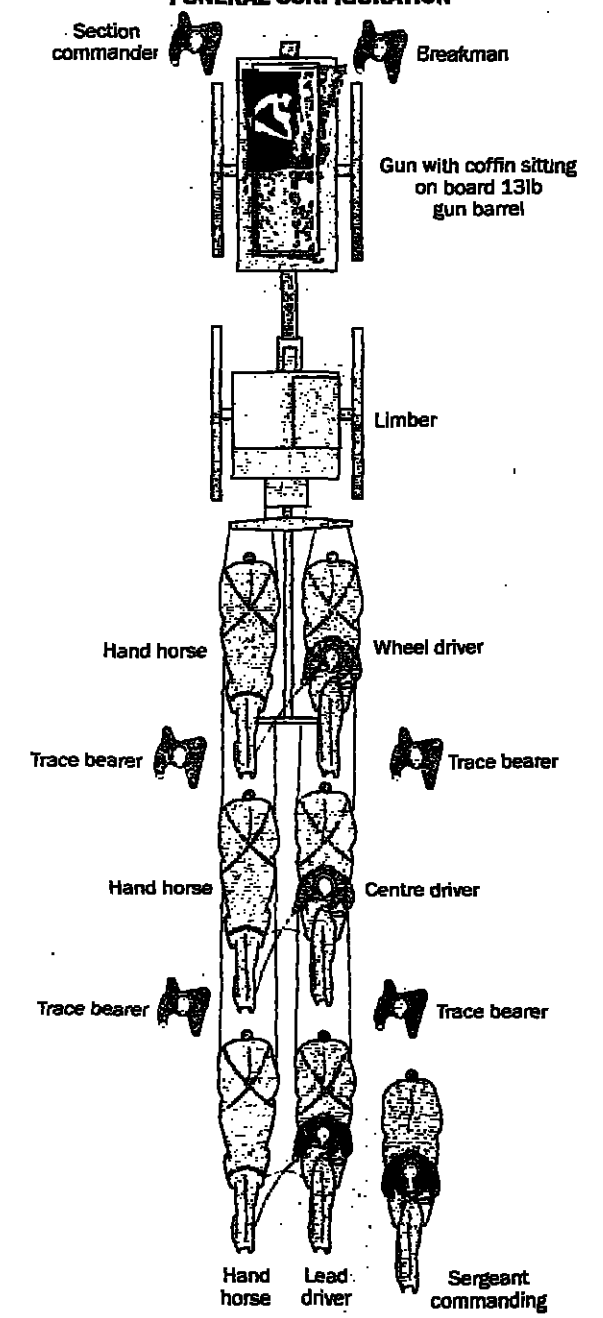
The bearer party for the funeral, which will be responsible for removing the coffin from the gun carriage and taking it into the Abbey, will be supplied from the Brigade of Guards.

The gun carriage is kept at St John's Wood Barracks. "F" subsection of King's Troop will be involved in rehearsals for the Princess's funeral throughout this week.

Gun carriages of the Royal Horse Artillery have been used on six previous occasions this century: for King Edward VII in 1910, for King George V in 1936, for King George VI in 1952, for Sir Winston Churchill in 1965, for the Duke of Windsor in 1972, and for Lord Mountbatten in 1979.

The gun was designed for battle and when it was taken to war it represented a significant technological advance, capable of more rapid fire than previous models. It won battle honours in the First World War at Nery in France when L (Nery) Battery of the Royal Horse Artillery was involved in the retreat from Mons. The men's bravery was rewarded with a number of Victoria Crosses.

THE KING'S TROOP ROYAL HORSE ARTILLERY: FUNERAL CONFIGURATION



The Princess comforting Elton John at Gianni Versace's funeral in July

Clinton feared funeral 'circus' Palace calls minute's silence

By BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON AND PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

PRESIDENT CLINTON decided against attending the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales, because he feared that his presence would transform the event, officials in London and Washington disclosed yesterday.

Instead his wife, Hillary, will attend with Admiral William Crowe, who is about to step down as the United States Ambassador in London. The compromise was agreed by the White House after hours of meetings.

The arrangement shows how fond the Clintons were of the Princess, and adds a more personal touch than could have been achieved by sending Al Gore, the vice-president. Although Mrs Clinton, like the President, is always accompanied by tight

security, the decision will avoid the disruption caused by the "circus" that inevitably attends a full-scale presidential visit.

Mr Clinton is believed to have decided against coming after hearing from Tony Blair in a telephone call on Monday of Buckingham Palace's plans for a "people's funeral" for the Princess. His decision means that the inevitable disappointment of other leaders who are not invited will be eased.

The White House was afraid that Mr Clinton's attendance would "detract from what should be a solemn occasion", an official said yesterday. "It's a circus wherever he goes," one seasoned presidential follower remarked.

Including security and the White House press corps, Mr Clinton could expect to bring 600 to 800 people with him

to an event such as the Princess's funeral. Protocol was the second reason behind Mr Clinton's decision to stay away. An official said: "It is a very rare event for the President to attend a funeral other than of one of his counterparts - another head of state."

Downing Street officials were continuing to play an active part in funeral organisation but they reacted angrily to media criticism of Mr Blair's involvement. They pointed out that the Prime Minister inevitably had a role in offering assistance for such a major national event. It was also emphasised that Palace officials had welcomed the support they were getting from Downing Street.

One government source said the Palace was anxious that everything possible was done to ensure that Saturday's event went well.

Continued from page 1 final journeys in the full panoply of a state funeral. Accompanying the cortege will be five representatives of about hundred charities with which the Princess was associated. Each charity will have a further representative inside the abbey.

But, in this "people's funeral", there could be significant differences from those previous, stiffer, occasions. It emerged yesterday that Elton John, a close friend of the Princess and a supporter of her work with Aids charities, may sing at the service. Buckingham Palace last night denied suggestions that it was being stuffy over the proposal, and insisted that they remained an open mind. A decision will be made by the Earl of Airlie, the Lord Chamberlain, today.

Among mourners at Saturday's service will be Hillary Clinton, representing the

United States. President Clinton, who considered coming because of his respect for the Princess, decided that his presence would disrupt the occasion because of the large retinue of security staff. Bernadette Chirac, wife of the French President, will represent her country, after consultations with Buckingham Palace and the Spencer family.

Palace officials last night could not confirm reports that the Princess's sons, Prince William and Prince Harry, had asked to be with the chief mourners, the Prince of Wales and her brother Earl Spencer, at the head of the funeral procession, as the coffin moves from the Great West Door of the abbey to its position on the catafalque in front of the high altar.

They did confirm, however, that the boys, who have remained at Balmoral

since news of their mother's death was broken to them by the Prince of Wales on Sunday morning, were being looked after by Alexandra "Tiggy" Legge-Bourke, who played a key domestic role in their upbringing after their parents separated. Miss Legge-Bourke was seen yesterday taking Prince Harry for an outing from Balmoral in a Range Rover.

Palace officials are considering publishing more details of the route to be followed by the funeral cortege when it leaves the abbey for the private interment at Althorp, Northamptonshire.

There are worries that so many people will descend on the capital to witness the event - some estimates put the expected crowd at one million - that the short processional route from St James's to the abbey will be too short to accommodate them all.

PRINCESS: THE CEREMONY

Abbey prepares to make history

Alan Hamilton on arrangements for the staging of Saturday's funeral

THE mother church of the nation resembled a film set yesterday as it prepared to host the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales.

Westminster Abbey closed its doors to the late summer throng of tourists yesterday morning, and will not reopen until Tuesday. Prominent notices posted at all doors told of the reason, and the milling hordes of overseas visitors seemed to understand. But they hung about the railings anyway, just in case.

Inside the soaring Gothic cavern, which with its earlier buildings has looked down on nearly a millennium of coronations, marriages and funerals, the day was given over to

technicians. Television riggers hoisted great gantries of lighting up to the triforium, while others began the building of scaffolding to accommodate the army of cameramen, photographers and journalists who will record the last appearance of a woman who gave so many of them a living.

Other electricians were at work wiring up the public address system which will relay the service to loudspeakers positioned along the entire processional route from St James's Palace, where the Princess's coffin currently lies in the privacy of the Chapel Royal, to the abbey.

Hundreds of chairs were stacked yesterday in the aisles

of the abbey to keep the nave clear for the workforce. By Saturday they will be back in place to accommodate the congregation of 2,000 mourners at the funeral.

There has been no event quite like it at the abbey since the state funeral of Earl Mountbatten of Burma in 1979. Saturday's event will attract far more attention, but the abbey is a well-oiled machine quite used to coping with the grandeur of state.

It even has its own catafalque, the stand on which the Princess's coffin will lie before the high altar. It will be wheeled from storage later this week and placed in position under the lantern.

Closure of the abbey has meant that its regular daily services have had to be moved, either to the side chapel of St Faith's, or to St Margaret's, Westminster, the parish church of Parliament immediately next door. Abbey officials hope to restore services to their usual place on Sunday.

Serious preparation goes on out of sight, mostly in the offices of Chapter House in Dean's Yard behind the abbey. Yesterday staff were recalling the boys of the Westminster Choir School from their summer holiday, but as the order of service has not yet been finalised they will not be called to rehearsals until later this week. Other staff in the offices are in constant liaison with Buckingham Palace over precise arrangements, and the police over security details.

The burden of the service and its preparation falls on the Very Rev Dr Wesley Carr, Dean of Westminster, who took up his post in February after serving as Dean of Bristol. As the custodian of a Royal Peculiar — a church under the direct authority of the Queen — Dr Carr has no bishop to turn to, or to answer to. He is on his own, although Dr George Carey, Archbishop of Canterbury, will assist at

the service. "This is the biggest thing I have ever done," Dr Carr said yesterday. "But it is a rare opportunity for the abbey to bring together pageantry, royal history and the common touch."

Dr Carr has spent many hours in study, and in consultation with Buckingham Palace and the Spencer family, in an effort to strike the right note. "It is difficult to be sensitive to the whole range of emotion and expectation. Obviously this is a unique occasion, but every funeral is unique, and the pastor must try to express that uniqueness at every funeral he conducts."

"I have to try to think through all the components of the service. I have to consider what people want, but I must also keep the momentum of the service going. One difficulty has been that the entire world wants to have a say in the order of service; we have had so many letters and telephone calls here suggesting that this hymn or that prayer should be included. In the end, it is my decision, in consultation with the families."

Dr Carr added: "We should not forget also that this is a young death. There will be many young people, in the

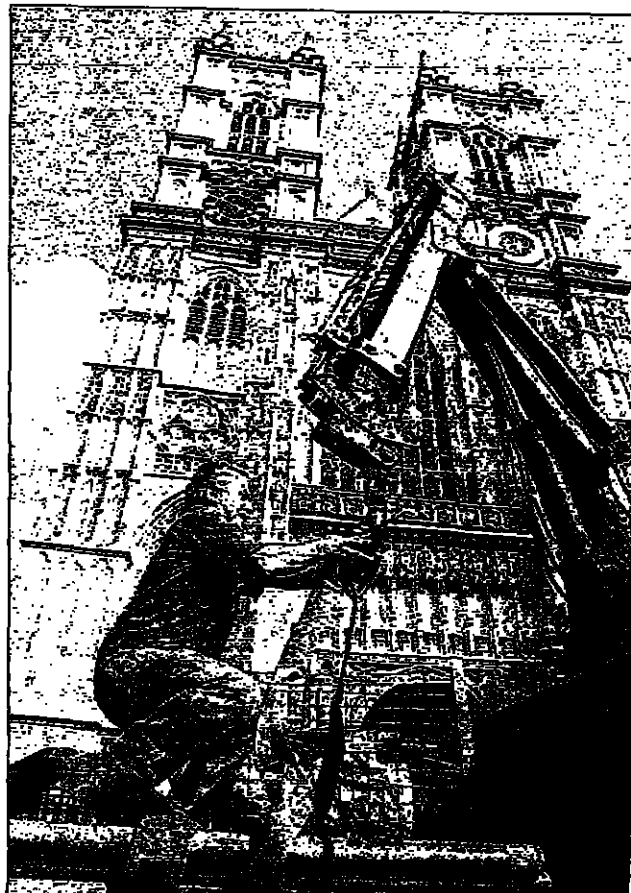


Dr Carr, who is in charge of arranging the service. "This is the biggest thing I have ever done," he said yesterday

LANDMINE SURVIVORS INVITED

Two landmine victims who organised the Princess's recent trip to Bosnia will attend her funeral. Ken Rutherford and Jerry White, founders of the Landmine Survivors Network, said they were deeply honoured to be asked.

They will be joined by Chris Moon, another landmine victim, who raised money for charity by running across the Sahara. They impressed the Princess with their determination to overcome their disabilities and help others.



Westminster Abbey resembled a film set yesterday, as technicians erected scaffolding and lighting

Churches open doors to grieving public

CHURCHES across Britain will open on Saturday morning to offer mourners a place of quiet contemplation during the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales.

Thousands are also expected at memorial services being held on Friday evening and through the weekend. Ministers of all faiths report a wave of churchgoing as the public seeks to come to terms with her death.

Carlisle Cathedral will hold a service at 11am on Saturday to coincide with the funeral, followed by the national minute's silence at 11.45. The Rev Alan Davis, the Archdeacon of West Cumberland, said the service would give people the chance to reflect on the tragedy in a religious setting. "We think that many will feel church the most appropriate place to be," he said.

St Albans Abbey will hold a short service of prayer and organ music at 11am on Saturday. "It will be a simple service of remembrance and silent prayer," a spokesman for the diocese said.

All 165 churches in the diocese of Birmingham will

The tragedy has turned many towards religion reports Mark Henderson

open their doors during the funeral and muffled church bells will be rung at 11am. One vicar in the diocese, the Rev Stuart Powell, of St Cuthbert's Church on the Castle Vale council estate, has hired television screens to allow his parishioners to watch the funeral in church.

"I don't know how many people will show up, and I don't really mind," he said yesterday. "I just think it's important for the Church of England to offer these things. I will feel more comfortable watching it in a place of God, and I hope my parishioners will too."

The Church of England said many people across the country who were not normally

practising Christians were turning to the Church. A spokesman said: "It is a way of coming to terms with such a tragedy, such a senseless and premature death."

The largest services outside London will be at York Minster and Durham Cathedral on Sunday afternoon.

Roman Catholic churches and cathedrals will also be open on Saturday, and many will hold Requiem Masses. Cardinal Basil Hume, the Archbishop of Westminster, will preside at a Requiem at Westminster Cathedral on Friday evening.

Tom Horwood, of the Catholic Media Office, said: "There is anecdotal evidence from the priests that there are a lot more people in church this week, and I think that's because people are reflecting on their lives through Diana's death," he said.

The Samaritans said yesterday there had been a significant increase in calls since the Princess's death. "People just felt they had to talk to someone, it was that sense of numbness and shock," a spokesman said.

Let charity dance go on, says Princess's mother

By Shirley English

THE mother of Diana, Princess of Wales, has intervened to stop organisers cancelling a charity dance on Saturday night at Oban.

Frances Shand Kydd, 61, lives on the island of Seil, near Oban, on the West Coast of Scotland. The ceiling to raise funds to take disabled children to Lourdes will now take place in Cathedral Hall as a tribute to the Princess's life, and a personal message from Mrs Shand Kydd will be read at the start.

Father Sean MacAnlay, priest at St Columba's Cathedral in Oban and a close friend of Mrs Shand Kydd, said that the annual event which she helped to organise was expected to raise about £2,000 for the Handicapped Children's Pilgrimage Trust.



Shand Kydd: message will be read to dancers

a church charity. About 300 people are expected to attend.

"Frances is very involved with the trust, as she is with many charities in this community. We were wondering whether to cancel the ceiling or not, but Frances said, no, it

should go ahead. She said it would be a tribute to Diana."

Mrs Shand Kydd has recently returned from accompanying a group of handicapped children to Lourdes. Since the Princess's death, she has remained at her home, Callanish, with her nephew, Hugh Roche, who was on holiday in Fort Augustus when the news broke. The parish priest from Morar, Father Michael Hudson, is also with her. She is expected to leave for London to join her son and two daughters in the next two days.

Father MacAnlay said: "She is obviously greatly distressed. She has been talking about Diana and their life together as a mother talking about her daughter. She is a very strong and courageous woman."

Cecilia Bartoli prizes two instruments above all others. Her voice and her Rolex.

When Cecilia Bartoli began taking singing lessons she was amazed by her own voice. "I'd never been interested in singing," she says.



"So when I discovered this voice, I was thrilled."

It's a voice that has taken her to the pinnacle of the opera world.

"I love singing now," Cecilia says.

"I listen to the music and I start to become a part

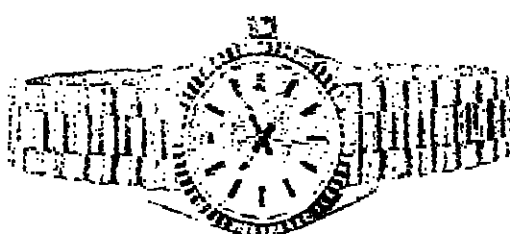
of it. It's a wonderful feeling."

Cecilia Bartoli feels a similar involvement with her Rolex Oyster Perpetual. "We need each other. We keep each other going."

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Inside Tony Blair's trusted circle

TWENTY-TWO hours before the election, the Labour high command was thrown into a perplexed state by the political situation. In the vast open space of the second floor of Millbank Tower, Peter Mandelson stood up from his desk and walked to a television set stationed at the top of a pillar. The Labour master of media wanted to stand, closer to it, as though peering at it from a shorter range might somehow make the news clearer. A few yards away, around a bank of desks and filing cabinets, Philip Gould clutched reams of polling data in one hand, a telephone in another, and darted about.

These Labour politicians had made every preparation for a struggle to the death, unto the final hour. The anxiety of impending defeat had been traced into their psychology so that it had become almost a second nature. They had learnt, time and again, that the arrival of the sensation that they might be reaching the safe haven was the ultimate signal of doom. Good news, especially close to election day, had the effect of triggering their instinctive dread. The result of this almost hormonal reaction was Tony Blair's statement the following day: Britain is not a landslide country. He was sounding more than a cautionary note to ward off complacency. His line of the day was an oddly unfiltered observation, giving vent to the collective unconscious of his circle.

Everyone in Millbank seemed to make a point of reassuring each other that all was calm. Typically, the remark was accompanied by the shaking of the head, nervous laughter and wide, surprised eyes. Somehow, they felt that their calmness might undo the arduous efforts to reform the Labour Party and to secure victory; their tranquillity might prompt them to drop their guard; their equanimity might prevent them from making the final cut and thrust. They worried that their own mood might betray them.

The team assembled in Millbank worked minute by minute to dominate the political environment. An editor at a newspaper was spoken to sharply about the character of an anti-Blair headline that had not yet seen print. A Labour figure who desperately wanted to voice his own controversial views was ad-



The American journalist Sidney Blumenthal on the final days of the Labour leadership's pursuit of power

monished to stay on message. The churning was constant.

But, from the Tories, there was nothing of consequence demanding a rapid response. For all the Labourites' plans, they now faced the one thing they had not counted on: the implosion of the opposition. The formidable political operation that had whipped Labour at every turn had turned on itself. Major's assemblage of Brutuses was the obverse of Blair's circle. The last few days of the Tory campaign resembled nothing so much as the dramatic conclusion of *The Treasure of Sierra Madre*, in which the Confederates wrestle in the dust while their gold blows away. Too busy grappling with each other, the Conservatives managed to snipe at Labour only as an afterthought. The Labour campaign staffers wondered how they could create a compelling story in the absence of any meaningful partisan clash. The anticlimax was the unexpected climax.

The Millbank operation was organised along lines learnt from the campaigns of Bill Clinton. A flow chart depicting the 1992 Clinton campaign and its organisational method of responding to Republican attacks, in fact, was openly posted in the room. But the obvious application of the American model was something of a miscue in explaining the inner circle gathered around Tony Blair for the campaign.

Millbank was more than

the political side of new Labour's modernisation. It also represented a physical compression of Blair's world. The second floor was an ingathering of many of the significant people in his life. Rather than coming and going through his office, phoning in or meeting him at this place or that, they were all concentrated at one point.

Blair's inner group is neither a collection of functionaries nor a sect, but closer to a family. The titles people held in the campaign, or hold in the Government, only barely begin to indicate who is really who. Mandelson, for example, is not just a junior minister. The personal assistant, Anji Hunter, is more than an assistant: the Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, more than his lofty position; and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Gordon Brown, more than a manager of the economy.

Blair's circle is a tight unit with respected demarcations of roles, but it does not operate like a standard bureaucracy. Every member has helped to advance Blair's victory, but while the leader is paid deference, none feels inhibited from strongly arguing his or her point of view. Blair is the central figure around which everything revolves, but what flows around him is not a court. Members do not rate their status by a fluctuating market of favour. No one is lavished with attention one day and banished to outer darkness the next. Caprice never enters. The circle around Blair has been building since he was a teenager, and it has been a steady group over the two and a half years since his election as party leader.

The backstory, as they say in Hollywood, is essential. Anji Hunter is Blair's oldest friend, who attended a girls' school near Blair's. They both had rebellious streaks and from the start became each other's confidants. She is his private focus group on Middle England, but that understates her position. She also offers Blair acute and instant judgments on who to see and when, how to react to breaking political events and how to handle hot situations. The most important thing about their relationship is that it has never changed.

Alexander Irvine is a Scottish lord, an old Labour hand and was the best friend of John Smith. Blair was his law



More than a press secretary: the intensely loyal Alastair Campbell, right, a member of the inner circle, pushing the party line to a journalist

pupil at The Temple. It was there that Blair fell in love with Lord Irvine's other pupil, Cherie Booth. When Smith died and Blair was catapulted into the leadership, the relationship was altered. The pupil had risen above his mentor. But, with Blair's rise, Irvine was allowed to become a complete moderniser.

Irvine remains the tutor, still called almost daily for his incisive mind and prudence. Blair trusts him implicitly. Smith's death was a crossroads. While Irvine was plunged into mourning, he was also plunged into helping Blair to manage his campaign for party leader. His putative opponent was Gordon Brown, who is Blair's fraternal political twin. Both arrived in Parliament after the Labour disaster of 1983, shared an office and began plotting the party's change. Brown was slightly older politically and intellectually, and with an air of gravity. But Blair's effort to seize the party leadership was so swift and sweeping that Brown swallowed his ambition and never even ran for the

job he thought should be his. He is the older brother who is surpassed, but reconciled.

Brown, however, may retain some suspicion of another member of the circle, Peter Mandelson, who, as the party's media strategist and moderniser, gave early star billing to both Blair and Brown. Mandelson is an hereditary loyalist and partisan — his grandfather was the deputy prime minister Herbert Morrison — and in the leadership contest he tipped his loyalty to Blair. Brown is a Calvinist to whom nothing comes easily. He sometimes looks sideways at Mandelson's political fluidity. It is a case of the assiduous and the sinuous. Mandelson, however, is embraced by Blair for more than his devotion.

He is loved by Blair, for his wit, charm, frankness, and warmth. In the Blair household, he is Uncle Peter.

Philip Gould, the political strategist and keeper of the polls, has a long history with Blair in the struggle to change the party. Like Blair, Brown and Mandelson, Gould was a

supporter of Neil Kinnock but more modern. Gould has a fertile mind, impatience with smugness and the most direct experience with Clinton campaigns. (In Millbank, Gould shared his desk with Stan Greenberg, the President's pollster in 1992, whom he recruited.) Sent into the wilderness by Smith, who regarded the methods of contemporary campaigns as black arts, Gould was returned to the fold by Blair.

Alastair Campbell, the press secretary, is a former political editor of *The Daily Mirror* who joined Blair's outfit in 1994. He and his partner, Fiona Millar, are intense loyalists and close to the Blairs as a couple.

Jonathan Powell is an hereditary civil servant who was introduced to Blair by Mandelson. One brother was Margaret Thatcher's chief of staff; another brother produced advertising for Labour campaigns, working with Gould. Powell gave up a posting in the British Embassy in Washington to work for Blair. His job at the Embassy

required that he travel with the Clinton campaign in 1992. He brought with him a portfolio of contacts.

But Powell won his way into the circle by his utter professionalism and loyalty.

Blair's circle has been intact for far longer than Clinton's was when he was elected. Only a few members of Clinton's entourage were intimate friends of his. For the most part, they were political operatives assembled for the campaign. Their binding experience was the Democratic Party primaries, a relentless series of tightly spaced elections, in state after state, under the glare of a sensationalist media. For Labour, the binding experience has been the long campaign to reform the party. This, more than the six-week campaign that has just ended, was the equivalent of American primaries.

In Millbank, Mandelson sat next to Hunter. Gould was in an alcove behind them.

Brown was lodged in the next office. Irvine wended his way among the desks. Up a short flight of stairs, Campbell

guarded Blair's door. And near the back of the room, Powell plotted the early events of the Blair government. His brain was assigned in advance to 10 Downing Street.

The day before the election, the entourage dispersed from Millbank; late on election night they reunited amid the throng at Royal Festival Hall. As Tory after Tory succumbed, full-throated cheers went up as though from a crowd at a Roman arena. None of Blair's circle had expected to win the largest majority since the Second World War. Surrounded now by that majority, well-wishers and those attracted by the scent of power, this circle had been through almost everything, together. Other rings might form around them, but this one is impenetrable. None of them would return to Millbank, though it would remain an operational centre. The next day they moved to a place they had never been before: the Government.

□ Sidney Blumenthal is a staff writer at *The New Yorker*

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Labour's puritanical tendency kept fizz bottled to the end

IN 1992, just a few days after the last general election, I left Britain to work as a foreign correspondent for *The Times*, first in New York and latterly in Paris. Four weeks ago I came back as a temporary addition to *The Times*' election team. In the five intervening years I had set foot in the country only rarely and briefly.

The perspective of two elections so far apart may be a peculiar one, but it has proved a remarkable vantage point from which to survey the utter transformation of the Labour Party, the seismic shift in the electoral landscape and this very changed nation.

When I departed Britain in 1992 Labour was a discredited, self-recriminatory shambles. From the moment I climbed aboard the Tony Blair battle bus, it was clear that the rawness of the Kinnock years, that musty rancour and air of defeatism that I remembered so vividly, had been quite scrubbed away. The crossants were almond-flavoured; the itinerary minute-exact; the attendants polite but firm; the windows on Mr Blair's bus, rolling along a few hundred yards ahead of us, were tinted.

Throughout our weeks on the road, Mr Blair always remained a figure in the middle-distance, carefully held just beyond reach. Like a bottle of champagne, you sensed the fizz building behind the glass but could never see it or judge it until, on Thursday night, it exploded.

The Labour strategy was simple and inspired: orchestrated boredom. The buses went to 65 constituencies, covering 9,000 miles, religiously lowering expectations and sowing seeds of uncertainty to ensure the largest possible crop of votes. This was negative campaigning of a new sort. No errors, no risks, no complacency. It was the singular achievement of new Labour to saturate itself so thoroughly in its own caution, that when the time came to celebrate many appeared to have forgotten how.

The press followed Mr Blair up and down the country, but we were so busy waiting for wobble, we barely heard the rumble of the juggernaut. We listened to jazz bands and stand-up comics. Mr Blair met the people, and we watched from behind metal pens, his words piped back to us by mobile microphone. We got to see all the changing colours of Mr Blair's campaign, from red to pastel to purple, but never the whites of his eyes.

For accompanying journalists the campaign was frustrating. There was not a leak, not a gaffe, not a fumble. Save for a bout of verbal jousting over devolution in Glasgow — the one time Mr Blair seemed rattled — there was no pack questioning, no impromptu doorstepping or off-the-coffee that is food and drink to a travelling press pack, and anathema to the spin-doctor.

We learnt, with some envy, of the



Ben Macintyre on the political transformation evident since the Kinnock era

hilarities aboard the Conservative campaign buses, of the easy access to John Major and the gallows humour. We were trained to be more puritan. There was no whiff of illegal substances on the Blair bus. There were not many jokes either. After a few days, it seemed, the strait-laced atmosphere was beginning to rub off on us. The slovenly assortment of hacks grew oddly tidy. Several had haircuts. I bought a tie.

Fed on a diet of pure spin and squidgy rolls, we became lean, a little starved and faintly paranoid. In the middle of one flight Mr Blair, usually confined to the front of the plane, appeared in our midst and was immediately set upon. "I did actually want to go to the loo," he said. After he had returned to his seat, one weary photographer wondered: "Should we go and take a picture of the bathroom to see if he's wiped the hand basin, like you're supposed to?"

We searched Mr Blair's face for signs of uncertainty, of stress. I saw none, only adrenalin fighting fatigue, and tight-lipped resolution. If the spinners were controlling us, Mr Blair was controlling himself. Mr Blair's speeches were models of terse emphasis, hammering away at the same themes, day after day. He bored us to distraction but I strongly doubt he bored anyone else.

The Labour leader repeatedly referred to his re-created party as a "disciplined and efficient fighting force" and there was something of the military forced march in this experience. Humourless, impersonal, rigid and repetitive, the Labour campaign was, nonetheless, a masterpiece: consistent, crisp and relentless. There was no real story, so the press had no choice but to pass on the messages, contained in simple bite-sized lumps, easy to remember, painfully hard to forget. The day after the election, I

cannot think of a single memorable Tory slogan. Mr Blair's tom-tom phrases, delivered with identical earnestness at every stop, I shall carry to the grave. "Tough on crime, tough on the causes of crime," we chanted, brainlessly, at the back of the bus.

My head spinning with spin, I took time off and wandered the country. Away from people telling me what to write, when to eat and always to "hurry up" I found a very different atmosphere from the one I had experienced in 1992.

In my five years away a new looseness had entered Britain's political joints, creating a kaleidoscope that would resolve itself into the Labour landslide but which, from a distance, seemed to dance and mutate before the eyes. I found Labour-voting Cornish fishermen sharing a bed in the Referendum Party with the littlest of Little Englanders in plus-fours, old-style shire Tories speaking the language of new Labour like natives; people of every political shade anxious about our future in Europe.

The pundits were right, in a way, for it was those famous "shy Tories" who won it. They were shy not of telling us that they secretly planned to vote Conservative, but of declaring how viscerally they loathed the Tory party and wanted to see it humiliated and dead.

We still stage better and madder elections than anyone else. I watched Kenneth Clarke sipping whisky in a Welsh distillery while being lectured by a seven-foot plastic monk. I smoked cigarettes with the Speaker of the House of Commons and saw John Prescott trying to cuddle a bullock. John Redwood wore a white coat and a funny look: several people wore chicken suits; everyone wore a silly hat. I had forgotten quite how pronounced is our national talent for eccentricity, how much we love to lower our dignity. Perhaps that was what had made the Blair campaign seem so novel, almost foreign: the avid protection of dignity, the studious avoidance of eccentricity.

As the Royal Festival Hall in London suddenly transformed itself into a vast discotheque and the rugby player Brian Moore began dancing alongside Trevor Nunn to the tune of *Things Can Only Get Better*, a group of American political consultants could be found in avid discussion. If Mr Blair had taken his cue from the two Clinton campaigns, they said, after this week America would be looking back across the Atlantic.

Eighteen years, five more years: six weeks of campaigning, 72 hours to save the Union: 24 hours left — the countdown had been agonisingly slow but when the change finally came it arrived, somehow, unexpectedly. A group of Labour campaign workers, still wearing dazed and shocked expressions, stood by the Thames and stared into the dawn.

PRINCESS: THE TRIBUTES

Florists struggle to meet demand

Unprecedented sales causing price increases, report Jennifer Davey and Eric Reguly

FLORISTS have brought in extra staff to cope with the demand for floral tributes following the death of Diana, Princess of Wales. Telephone requests and personal callers have left many florists in Kensington and around Buckingham Palace unable to cope with the demand.

The owners of Watkins & Watkins, near St James's Palace and Buckingham Palace, received a call from Interflora at 6.30am Sunday asking them to open early. Keith Walker, the manager, said: "We are doing four to five times in excess of Mother's Day business, which is the busiest day of the year. It has been absolutely unbelievable."

The florist, through Interflora, has received orders from mourners in dozens of countries. It has employed four cars to deliver the flowers to the palaces, whose entrances have become a sea of bouquets.

White roses and lilies, the traditional symbols of grief, are especially requested. "It will be difficult for us to cope with demand by the end of the week," said Nadia Florence, spokeswoman for the Flowers and Plants Association, which represents flower wholesalers.

Sally's of Kensington said it was selling three times as many bouquets as usual, with more than 100 being purchased each day. Staff will work through the night on Thursday and Friday to meet orders from as far away as the United Arab Emirates. A spokeswoman said: "People are buying and sending flowers constantly. We have never seen anything like this before. We've even had to draft in friends and relatives to help."

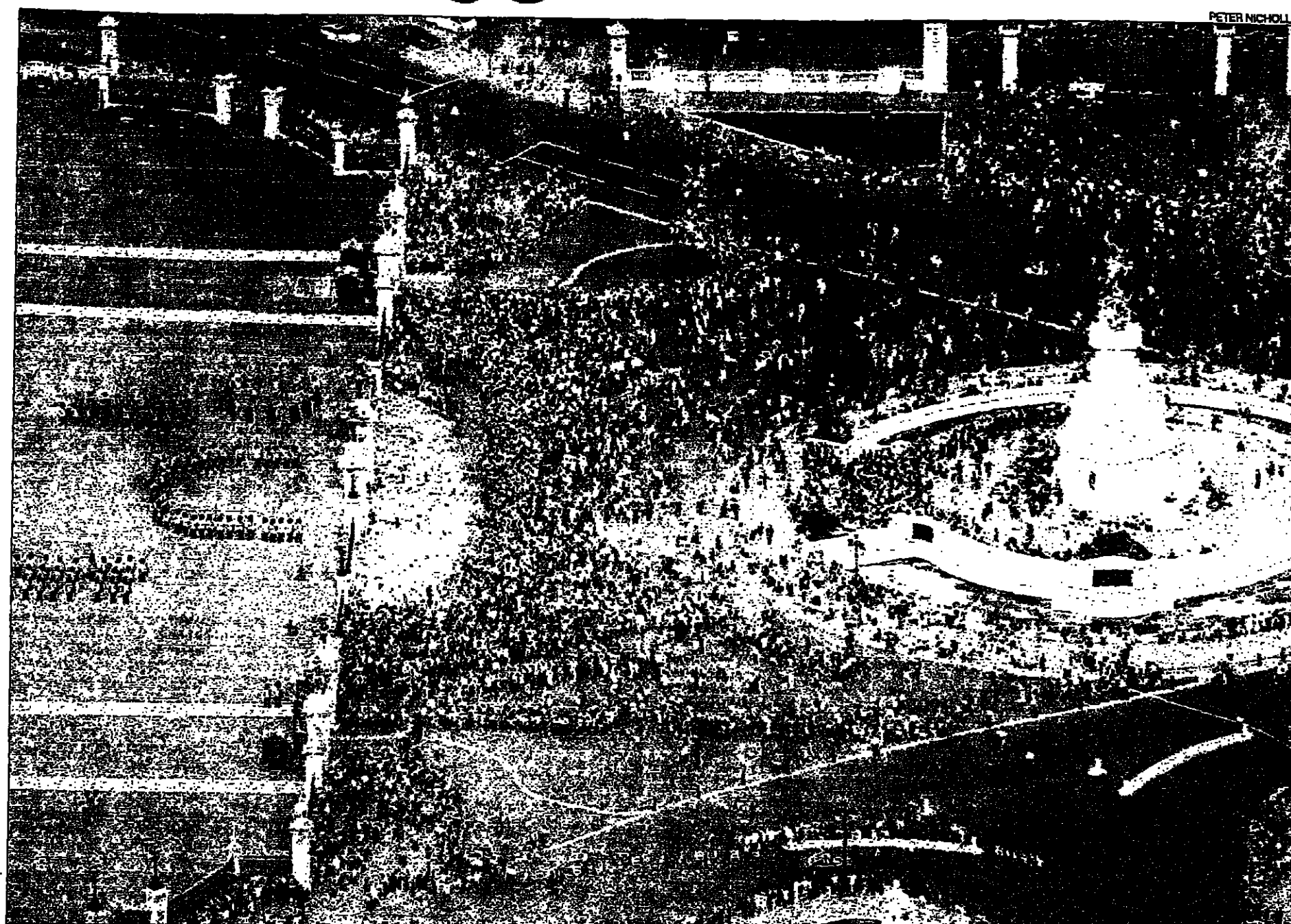
Interflora has received many calls asking for white flowers, which is said to have been Diana's favourite colour in bouquets. Other customers have been sending red flowers, particularly roses, as a show of love for the Princess. On Sunday orders continued until after midnight.

An Interflora spokeswoman said she felt "pleased that Interflora can aid the public in being able to show their grief".

Countrywide Flowers said the week had been an "emotional experience". A spokeswoman said: "One lady broke down in tears. She was so overcome on the telephone. She said that she just wanted something beautiful for a beautiful lady."

To some customers, money was no object as they ordered large wreaths and bouquets costing as much as £100. Many flowers have been bought on behalf of children who wanted to pay tribute to Diana.

The spokeswoman for Countrywide Flowers said: "People just want something pretty and sweet-smelling. Many of the little girls choose



Two days after the Princess's death, the crowds were still enormous outside Buckingham Palace, above, and the gates of Kensington Palace were clogged with flowers

small bunches of pink flowers."

Another florist said: "White lilies and chrysanthemums have been popular but many people have chosen quite unusual flowers. One man chose an orchid as his own personal and private tribute to Diana."

"Usually this is our quietest time of year as everyone goes on holiday. Some florists in the area even close during the summer months, so this has taken us by surprise."

There have been reports of busloads of mourners en route to London buying the entire contents of flower shops.

The Flowers and Plants Association estimates that demand this week could easily outstrip Mother's Day, when orders typically jump by £50 million.

The availability of flowers will depend on the "flying Dutchmen", the owners of refrigerated lorries that shuttle between the enormous flower depots in The Netherlands and London's wholesale flower market at New Covent Garden. They will be working round the clock until the weekend.

Plantloads of flowers are also arriving from around the world: orchids from Thailand, protea from South Africa, carnations from Kenya and sunflowers from Israel.

Wholesale prices have climbed by up to 25 per cent since Sunday. Watkins & Watkins, for one, has raised its retail prices by as much as

10 per cent, though pensioners are receiving discounts. "Some of the older types are coming into the shop in tears. You can't rip them off," Mr Walker said.

Meanwhile, the Princess memorabilia industry was preparing to design new items for collectors. Steven Jackson of the Commemorative Collectors' Society said: "I know of two small companies designing ceramic items which will be ready in six to eight weeks."

They do not want their identities revealed for fear of causing offence because they are very aware that people might think that they are cashing in on the Princess."

He said that one company was proposing to produce a vase and a two-handled loving cup decorated with portraits of the Princess. Another was designing a plate and mug, also featuring her portrait.

Mr Jackson added: "There will be a demand for these, especially among serious collectors of Diana memorabilia. It tends to be the smaller companies that do this sort of thing."

A spokeswoman for Wedgwood China said it was too soon to be thinking about memorabilia for the Princess. She said: "If we have requests from the public then we may consider an appropriate piece but this would take some months to produce. It would have to be approved by the Lord Chamberlain's Office first."

100,000 messages left on Palace Website

By MARK HENDERSON

MORE than 100,000 mourners have avoided the queues to sign the condolence books at St James's Palace by leaving messages of sympathy on Buckingham Palace's Internet site.

The Website has had nearly four million users since it carried an obituary of the Princess on Sunday. It can be found at <http://www.royal.gov.uk>

More than 111,000 had signed the condolence section by e-mail at midday yesterday. Thousands more from around the world left messages on unofficial websites dedicated to the Princess.

A spokeswoman for the Central Computer and Telecommunication Agency, which operates the Buckingham Palace site, said that it had been overwhelmed by the numbers reading it and sending messages. "The file produced has become astonishingly large, and we were at one stage getting two or three hits every second."

"We knew we would get a lot of traffic, as the site was getting 1.3 million hits a week when it was launched in March, but the response has been incredible."

The Palace said yesterday that 300 people were signing the condolence books at St James's Palace every hour, although no total of signatures had been collated. Staff at more than 200 British Consulates and Embassies have set up condolence books.

The Palace has not yet made the messages publicly accessible because many of the expressions of grief are private and personal, a spokesman said. Many have left home telephone numbers and e-mail addresses. The Palace also wants to discourage hoaxes from leaving tasteless messages.

The unofficial Club Di Website has set up a page for tributes called *Tears Flow Across Nations*. More than 100,000 have visited the site <http://www.royalnetwork.com/clubdi> since Sunday and messages have been left from the Faroe Isles, Kazakhstan, Bulgaria and Paraguay, as well as thousands from the United States, South America, Europe and Japan.

Hilred Taylor, from the volcanic island of Montserrat in the Caribbean, left a message hoping that Princess William and Harry "may be surrounded by all the love, care and warmth, and the professional psychological help which helps us to cope with loss."

The National Aids Trust, of which the Princess was patron, has set up a Website for messages of sympathy at <http://www.nat.org.uk/nat/>

Churches tell couples there is no need to cancel weddings

CHURCHES and register offices fielded hundreds of calls yesterday from anxious couples, questioning whether they should postpone weddings which clash with the funeral. About 7,000 couples marry on an average September Saturday.

Most will be going ahead, with official blessing, but one couple whose wedding was due to take place in the shadow of Westminster Abbey decided to delay the ceremony for a week.

Paul Holloway and Mari Howells, 33, were to be married in the Chapel of St Mary Undercroft, in the Palace of Westminster, across the road from the abbey. The couple, who have also re-arranged their honeymoon, said it was a "very small sacrifice" in light of the tragic events.

Lady Geraint, the bride's mother, said: "Everybody has rallied round. As soon as we realised it was in the same area, it was the only thing we could do. People understood." The bride's father, Lord Geraint, 72, of

A peer's daughter has postponed her marriage at Westminster for a week, reports Mark Henderson

Ponterwyd, Dyfed, is the former Liberal MP for Cardigan.

The Church of England recommends that peals of bells to celebrate weddings be muffled where possible as a mark of respect. A spokesman said: "We see no reason why people should call off weddings, though ministers will understand completely if couples don't want to go through with it on Saturday. The choice will always be left to the couple."

The Roman Catholic Church said that couples should not feel they should call off weddings, and register offices will stay open. Most churches and register offices will waive cancellation fees if couples feel too distressed at the Princess's death to go ahead. An insurance

company said yesterday that it would pay out on claims by couples who wanted to postpone because of the funeral. Ecclesiastical, which sells about 300 wedding insurance policies a year, said it accepted that the funeral was an "unforeseeable event".

Couples who plan to marry on Saturday said they thought the Princess would not have approved of cancellations on her account. Tracey Foster, 20, and Brett Preston, 27, from Carlisle, booked their Gretna Green wedding months ago. Miss Foster said: "I keep telling myself it's what Diana would have wanted. She was all for marriage, even though her own didn't work out, and she wouldn't have wanted it to be cancelled for her."

Nearly half the 20 couples

planning to marry at the register office in Gretna Green on Saturday have already been in touch with the registrar to say they want to press on with the weddings. Weddings at the register office closest to the funeral, at Westminster, are to go ahead as planned.

One vicar, the Rev Tony Upton, who will marry a couple at St Chad's Church in Bishops Tachbrook, Warwickshire, said a weekday funeral would have been more appropriate. "The choice of Saturday will dismay hundreds of brides and their families looking forward to a special joy and celebration."

"People getting married will share the grief of the rest of the country, when they should be having a joyous day among their friends."

"A lot of people who have been invited to weddings are bound to have guilty feelings as they toast the bride and bridegroom with a glass of champagne while at the same time remembering Diana."

Thousands queue for hours to record personal tributes

TEN additional books of condolence for Diana, Princess of Wales, were opened at St James's Palace yesterday as thousands more people queued for up to eight hours to record their tributes.

By mid-afternoon, the mourners stood three deep and snaked three quarters of a mile up and down the Mall. Police estimated that shortly after 2pm there were 4,000 people in line.

Some people queued through the night: workers went without sleep; the sick and disabled ignored their discomfort as young and old arrived determined to pay their respects. Even those who had come in the middle of the night, including many straight from clubs, faced waits of two hours.

To ease the delays, it was decided to limit the length of time allowed inside the Long Corridor, where the books are kept, to about 30 seconds per person. Nobody seemed to mind the wait and friendships were struck in the queue.

"The atmosphere kept us

Adrian Lee joins the young and the old, the sick and disabled, clubbers and families at St James's Palace

going through the night," said Debbie Rees, 27, from Dagenham, East London, who arrived with her husband, Stuart, and daughter, Kirsty, 5, at 1.15am. "There was a great sense of togetherness in the queue. Kirsty is normally a handful, but she knew it was a sad occasion and was very quiet."

The family were finally able to leave their messages at 7.30am when her husband said he would go on to work.

Pauline Bonifell, 28, a saleswoman from Tel Aviv, Israel, paid £600 for an air ticket so she could add her name. "I have adored Diana since I was 15," she said. "I did not care how much it cost, I needed to be here to share the atmosphere and say goodbye."

George Jeffrey, 65, a diabetic from West Dulwich, south-east London, brought supplies

of insulin, not knowing how long he would have to wait. "I will be fine, no bother," he said. "I just admired her so much that I will queue for as long as it takes." Three hours later he and his wife, Edith, 65, emerged red-eyed. "I am glad we came, it was worth every minute," Mrs Jeffrey said. "There was a real presence in there."

A postman arrived in the early hours fresh from the nightshift. Some, in wheelchairs, ignored offers to jump the queue, preferring to wait with the rest.

Jean and Peter Haynes, both 68, walked three miles from their home in Mickleover, Derbyshire, at 2.30am to catch a bus to London, where they waited for two hours to leave their condolences. Mr Haynes said: "I think this is

probably one of the best ways ordinary people can pay their respects."

Naomi Pope, 49, from St Louis, Missouri, sacrificed half a day of her holiday. "I had to be here. I want to sign for myself and my family."

There were also huge crowds at Buckingham Palace and Harrods. Great Brington, Northamptonshire, the village where the Princess will be buried on Saturday, was again swamped with well-wishers. Thousands of people queued for up to an hour to add their names and messages of sympathy to four books of remembrance in the 13th-century church.

As the queue to St James's Palace reached its peak, extra crush barriers were installed. Somaskanthamoor Ravi-rasa, 32, a university researcher from Stratford, East London, found himself last in line. Warned that he faced a wait of more than eight hours, he said: "I don't care. I want to sign for Diana. I will come on Saturday also."

Labour plans a clear-out of the old guard in town halls

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

LABOUR is planning to replace its old guard of councillors with younger, Blairite professionals after a series of town hall scandals.

The Labour field of Doncaster, which yesterday admitted that councillors had bullied officials and each other into breaking the law, is to be a pilot for the imposition of a list of new-style candidates. A frank assessment of the poor quality of Labour councillors now running most of local government has been produced by an official at the party's Watworth Road headquarters.

The Times has seen the internal document, written by the party's assistant local government officer, Howard Knight, which says that they include a disproportionately large number of older white men, often retired. "Labour has nearly 11,000 councillors; but 50 per cent are over 55 (more than 30 per cent are retired), and women and ethnic minorities are under-represented. Our representatives don't match the profile of party members, let alone the profile of communities we seek to represent. In some areas, we still do not field a full slate of candidates; in others, our procedures do not attract or prepare potential candidates nor provide a real choice of candidates for selection."

That last reference is to the large areas of Britain where Labour has had power for a generation, and where cliques can dominate decision-making and patronage.

The NEC (National Executive Committee) Action Advice Note, dated August 1997, is addressed to all Labour council leaders in Britain and some party officials. "In most areas,

there is no training for candidates to help them in the election they are fighting — objectives, manifesto implications, delivering national and local pledges, dealing with (potential) constituents' complaints, campaigning, handling the media etc," writes Mr Knight.

"Some initiatives will be piloted this autumn in a few areas which have elections in 1998: these include new nomination and panel approval mechanisms and a training-day for selected candidates."

London is already screening candidates for next year's borough elections. "A new nomination form is being used in London this year. It seeks to ensure the provision of key information about the nominee, identify skills and experience, and provide the opportunity to identify potential problems. It also has a requirement for the nominee to agree to the local authority

releasing information about the individual if necessary."

Mr Knight acknowledges that Labour candidates for local authorities are chosen by an array of methods, with some local parties merely rubber-stamping nominees. Others "have a disciplined and consistent assessment and evaluation process."

In Doncaster, where 58 of the 63 councillors are Labour, and where the police and district auditor are investigating alleged corruption involving planning applications, foreign jaunts and expenses, the imposition of more Blairite, younger councillors is to be tried out. The lessons will be applied to the nationwide district elections in 1999.

Yesterday's internal report admitted that some foreign trips by councillors had provided no benefit for Doncaster, and that some travel expenditure had been unreasonable. The four-person inquiry team found evidence of misconduct relating to recruitment, selection, discipline, planning, contracts, grants and asset disposal; failure to declare pecuniary interests and reluctance to monitor gifts and hospitality.

The former chief executive Doug Hale, who took early retirement, and the ex-finance director, John Smith, who was released from his contract, are said to have been responsible for the failure of "checks and balances which should have safeguarded the council."

The new Labour leader of the council, Malcolm Glover, announced the report. Rights are to be given to those seeking to expose wrongdoing.

Labour's NEC has suspended the Doncaster district party, and a clean-up has begun.

Blair ends trade unions' exile

Tony Blair opened the doors of 10 Downing Street to the unions yesterday for a 90-minute meeting with a delegation led by John Monks, the TUC general secretary.

The ending of the political exile was long key, but of importance to union leaders who felt they were shunned during the election campaign. The Prime Minister is to speak at the TUC conference in Blackpool next week. Photograph, page 24



Chastleton House, a family home for four centuries, in whose grounds the rules of croquet were drawn up

Jacobean splendour reborn

By JOHN YOUNG

ONE of the loveliest and most complete Jacobean houses in England opens to the public next Wednesday, after a six-year programme of repair and conservation, costing more than £3 million.

Chastleton House, in the Cotswolds, was built between 1605 and 1612 by Walter Jones, a Welsh wool merchant and MP for Worcester. The gardens include England's first standard croquet lawn, where the rules of the game were codified in 1865.

The house, near Stow-on-the-Wald, remained in family ownership for nearly four centuries during which there was seldom money available for modernisation or improvements. When Irene Whitmore-Jones opened the house to the public in the late 1940s, she liked to explain



Rare 18th-century glassware on show at the house

to visitors that her family had lost all their money "in the war"; she was referring to the Civil War, in which her ancestors had backed the royalist cause.

The house was purchased in 1991 for £1 million by the National Heritage Memorial Fund which passed it on to the National Trust with a

further £3 million endowment for its upkeep. Nearly £1 million was provided by English Heritage and other funding came from charities and from a public appeal.

When the trust took over Chastleton the roof needed urgent work and leaking gutters and downpipes had damaged exterior stonework

and caused rot in structural timbers. Woodworm and beetle were rampant and the magnificent plaster friezes and ceilings were crumbling and long hidden by generations of dirt and neglect.

But apart from essential conservation, the trust has made a point of retaining the endearingly homely, even shabby, appearance and atmosphere. The contents, however, are impressive: they include valuable tapestries, family portraits and much exquisite furniture and rare glassware. The walls of one small room are embroidered and the centrepiece of the library is the Bible which Charles I took with him to the scaffold.

The house and gardens will be open until the end of October. Wednesdays to Saturdays 1pm-5pm, and will reopen next March. Tickets must be bought in advance.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Murder police in appeal to gay men

Police appealed to the homosexual community for information about the murder of 12-year-old Thomas Marshall. His body was found at Roudham Heath, Norfolk, which is a popular meeting place for homosexual men.

Men in the area might have seen the boy in a vehicle. He was found strangled on August 22, 24 hours after going missing from his home in Happisburgh. "Many people from the gay community may not have come forward as yet but we want to emphasise that any information they give us will be treated in strictest confidence," Detective Superintendent Les Parren said.

Four acquitted

Four Greenham Common protesters were acquitted at Reading Crown Court of causing more than £37,000 damage to the Atomic Weapons Establishment at Aldermaston, Berkshire. The prosecution offered no evidence against Katrina Howse, Yolanda Kriek, Jean Hutchinson and Mary Wilson, who had been accused of cutting a perimeter fence.

Ecstasy death

Paul Bettinson, 19, a student from Looe in Cornwall, has died of a suspected drug overdose after taking Ecstasy at a nightclub in Plymouth. A post-mortem examination is expected to be carried out today. Two women aged 20 and 21, also from Looe, have been arrested on suspicion of supplying drugs and released on bail pending further inquiries.

Offender listed

A railway worker who indecently assaulted two teenage girls has become one of the first people ordered for inclusion on the new paedophile register. Liverpool Crown Court was told that Stanley Evans, 62, of Hoylake, Merseyside, put his arms around two 17-year-olds and touched one on her bottom and breast. He was placed on probation for two years.

Sisters in crash

A mother was killed when a car driven by her sister was involved in a four-car crash. Mary Murty, 36, died at the scene of the accident, near Dunblane, Mrs Murty, from Dunblane, had three teenage children. Her sister, Francis Beech, 32, was seriously injured. The car is believed to have been driven the wrong way on a dual carriageway. Four other people were hurt.

School first

The country's first newly built grant-maintained school, Blenheim High School, opened for 116 pupils in Epsom, Surrey. The £6.8 million comprehensive was paid for by the Funding Agency for Schools, set up by the Tories to finance opted-out schools. Labour, however, plans to convert them all to foundation schools, each with at least two local authority governors.

Pigs killed

A number of pigs died when their pens were lifted more than a quarter of a mile through the air by a tornado at Sutton on Trent, Nottinghamshire. Two children were slightly injured, a bungalow's double glazing was shattered and part of its roof blown away. Michael Hewson, a farmer, said: "There are plenty of dead pigs. Some have been killed by flying huts."

Picture this

A family who bought holiday postcards in France discovered themselves in the picture. The Glover family from Southampton had been photographed in the main street of Saint-Gilles-Croix-de-Vie in the Vendée on their last visit four years ago. "It was the most staggering coincidence," said David Glover, who was pictured with his wife and son.



"Just been picked to play for England. Have we sir?"

Britain gives up right to dump nuclear waste at sea

By NICK NUTTALL
ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN is to give up its right to dump nuclear waste in the ocean. It will also support international targets to reduce the discharge of radioactive substances into the Atlantic and of poisonous wastes, such as pesticides and heavy metals, into the North and Irish seas.

Britain has had an opt-out since

1992 from multilateral agreements on dumping nuclear waste directly at sea, though it has not done so since 1983. Britain and France have previously refused to support a campaign for heavy reductions in discharges by the early 21st century.

Michael Meacher, the Environment Minister, announced yesterday that under a deal being discussed with other nations along the North Sea, toxic chemicals

would be reduced to background levels by 2020. Synthetic chemicals that have been linked with sexual changes in man and wildlife, known as endocrine disrupters, "should be brought down to close to zero".

Mr Meacher, speaking at officials from scores of European nations gathered in Brussels for an anti-pollution conference, also announced that Britain would cut the number of oil and gas rigs and

installations that are dumped at sea. They should be disposed of on land wherever safe and practicable, he said. In some cases, such as giant concrete rigs in deep water or those found to be damaged, sea disposal must remain an option.

Environmental groups and industry were split on the significance of the announcements, made at the opening of the Oslo Paris Commission. Lord Melchett, executive director

of Greenpeace UK, said: "This is the most dramatic change in marine pollution policy for at least a decade and a half."

Green groups claimed that tightening nuclear waste discharge rules and ending the opt-out on dumping at sea meant that the nuclear industry was being "squeezed on all sides". A recent plan to dispose of waste deep underground was effectively blocked by John Gummer, the

former Environment Secretary, who refused planning permission for an underground laboratory under Sellafield.

But a spokesman for BNFL, which operates Sellafield and is authorised to discharge nuclear wastes to sea, said it believed the announcements would not affect its business.

Leading article, page 19

NCA announce:

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NCA announce:

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Hume poised to accept Irish presidency

By MARTIN FLETCHER
CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

JOHN HUME, the man who has done more than anyone else to broker this month's peace talks, is expected to accept the Irish presidency if he does not have to fight an election, well-placed sources said yesterday.

Mr Hume, leader of Northern Ireland's nationalist Social Democratic and Labour Party, has spent weeks considering whether to go for a job that would make him the first Irish president from the north, but would prevent him participating in the talks on the future of the Province. He is consulting colleagues and will announce his decision within days. "He would be much more inclined to look on it favourably if he is not opposed," a senior SDLP source said.

A poll in the Irish Independent yesterday showed Mr Hume to be by far the most popular choice to succeed Mary Robinson, who steps down next week. Of those interviewed, 31 per cent backed Mr Hume compared with only 13 per cent for the former Taoiseach Albert Reynolds. "The poll definitely indicates the futility of trying to oppose a Hume candidacy," the source said.

The opposition Fine Gael and Labour parties would be happy to accept Mr Hume as an agreed candidate. So would the ruling Fianna Fail party but the problem is that



Hume would stand if election was uncontested

Mr Reynolds has vowed to seek its nomination. Mr Hume is understood to be in contact with senior Fianna Fail officials including Bertie Ahern, the Taoiseach, and they must decide whether they can abandon their former leader.

Mr Hume, whose wife, Pat, is said to be keen for him to take the job, has agonised over his decision. He has spent 30 years seeking a peaceful resolution of the conflict. Once pilloried for talking to Gerry Adams, he has now brought Sinn Féin to the negotiating table. Accepting the presidency would mean relinquishing his pivotal role in the talks beginning on September 15. It would also give Sinn Féin a chance to win his seal in a by-election and overtake the SDLP as nationalism's biggest party.

Extra £1bn for NHS 'will not prevent cuts'

By IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

PATIENTS can expect significant cuts in services this winter, according to a survey published today by the British Medical Association.

The cuts are inevitable, even though the Government is making an extra £1.2 billion available from next month to help health authorities to prepare for increased demand as the weather grows colder.

The BMA survey found that a quarter of all health authorities are already in deficit or expect to be so by the end of the financial year. 15 per cent intend to cut services in order to stay out of the red, 16 per cent intend to halt or delay non-emergency operations and 13 per cent are planning to close wards or units. Another 11 per cent have already deferred planned developments.

Primary care will also be hit with 16 per cent of authorities ready to cut budgets of GP fundholders to save money. The BMA survey, answered by 84 of the 120 health authorities, suggests that forward planning is concentrating almost exclusively on ways of cutting expenditure in order to be able to guarantee emergency services. "This winter will look very much like last with waits for trolleys and lengthening waiting lists," Mac Armstrong, the BMA secretary, said.

Although the Government is to allow authorities to spend their share of the £1.2 billion from next month, that money is in next year's budget and will not be paid until the start

of the next financial year. Dr Armstrong believes that will do no more than delay the crisis. "By applying these creative accounting rules the Government is effectively mortgaging next year against this. It will look as if Labour has stuck to its promise to follow the Tories' spending plans when in fact it is storing up debts for the future."

Derek Day, policy director of the NHC Confederation, the umbrella body for all health authorities and trusts, said coping with the winter crisis would be extremely difficult. "We firmly believe that extra funding needs to be found this year in order to make ends meet," he said. Just one major road accident could cause a serious financial problem to a small authority, he said.

Sandy Macara, chairman of the BMA, has called for an extra £500 million. "I am not happy to hear such bad news but I cannot but see [the survey] as a vindication of our expressions of concern," he said. "We have been accused of being alarmist but perhaps we have not been ringing the alarm bells loudly enough."

Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, said: "No one should be in any doubt about the scale of the challenges facing the Government in rescuing and renewing the NHS." A White Paper expected this autumn will include plans to merge trusts and introduce contracting rounds every three years instead of annually.

BOSS'S

Drug into

Teenage leader h pupil to

Man dies

Boss's uneducated son promoted over Mrs Smart

Woman claims sex bias after colleague with five O levels was given management job meant for graduates



Malcolm Hill: son was promoted rapidly

By A STAFF REPORTER

THE head of the British arm of Volkswagen ignored the company's minimum education standards to promote his son, an industrial tribunal was told yesterday.

VW company policy states that district managers should have been educated to university degree standard, it was said. However, Malcolm Hill, managing director of Volkswagen Financial Services, appointed his son, Jason, as a district manager despite the fact that he had only five O levels.

Jason Hill had been with VW for three months as a company representative when his father promoted him to the executive post, said

Elizabeth Smart, who is claiming sex discrimination against the motor manufacturer, alleging that she was passed over for the job.

Mrs Smart, 30, had been with the company for two years when the job of Essex district manager for VW's Skoda division became available. She had begun maternity leave from VW on January 31 this year, after working alongside Mr Hill, 27, as a field support representative, both earning about £16,000. She told the tribunal at Ashford, Kent, that while on maternity leave she had asked the company to inform her of any senior jobs that became available. Less than a month later Mr Hill was appointed to the management post, earning £37,500 a year

plus a higher-grade company car. Mrs Smart recently resigned from the company and is now unemployed.

"Jason Hill had achieved five O-level passes. He was not educated to my ability and had less experience in the field than I have," said Mrs Smart, of Orpington, Kent.

Mrs Smart said that she recorded telephone conversations she had with company executives during her maternity leave. During one conversation with Graham Lesley, her VW line manager, she said she was told: "Malcolm runs the company. If you start making waves it could cause problems for me. And I have a mortgage to pay."

Mr Lesley had agreed with her

that Jason Hill was not as qualified as she was and felt that he should not have been given the position.

Mrs Smart also has five O levels, but she also has a higher national diploma in hotel management from Westminster College in London. Mrs Smart said she had also achieved Financial Planning Certificate One and was also midway through studies for a diploma in financial studies.

Mrs Smart said that during a conversation with another VW executive she was told she was not being given the job because of the baby she was carrying. She said: "This could have caused me to reject my unborn child."

Mrs Smart said numerous other

people should have been given the opportunity to compete for the position but were also passed over. She told the tribunal: "Other members of staff employed by Volkswagen Financial Services, one of whom who was involved in training Jason Hill, were not short-listed for the position of district manager."

Mrs Smart said that during her employment she had been for interviews for other district manager posts. But she was not even sent an application form for the job awarded to Jason Hill. "I do not feel that senior employees should be able to break the rules like they have on this occasion," Mrs Smart said.

The hearing continues today.



Elizabeth Smart: asked to be told of senior jobs

Drug men 'lured into gun ambush'

Stewart Tendler reports on court claims of threats and double-cross

THREE drug dealers who were found shot dead in a country lane had been lured into an ambush with the promise of a large cocaine consignment, a jury was told yesterday.

They died because they had threatened to kill another drug dealer, who decided to act first before the threat could be carried out, it was claimed at the Old Bailey. Patrick Tate and two associates, Anthony Tucker and Craig Rolfe, were sitting in their parked Range Rover in the lane at Rettendon, in Essex, when eight shots were pumped into them with "cold, ruthless efficiency", the jury was told.

Andrew Munday, QC, for the prosecution, said that Tate and his men were not angels, but "notwithstanding their past, they had the right to live".

He added: "Dealing in drugs is not an honourable trade. It is often the province of double-cross, the sting, double-dealing."

"There is a great deal of distrust. Distrust breeds threats from which there are often acts of violence, and



The victims: from left, Tate, Tucker and Rolfe. They were found shot dead in the Range Rover

sometimes the direct acts of violence — killing someone." The murder is denied by Michael Steele, 54, from Great Bentley, Essex, and Jack Whomes, 35, from Brockford, Suffolk, who was said to be his right-hand man.

Mr Steele, Mr Whomes and another man, Peter Corry, 44, from Clacton-on-Sea, Essex, also pleaded not guilty to importing cannabis resin between August and December 1995. Mr Steele further pleaded not guilty to the possession of a pump-action shotgun.

Opening the prosecution case, Mr Munday told the

court that Mr Steele believed Tate had threatened him over a bad consignment of cannabis which Mr Steele had supplied. Mr Munday said that drug dealers could not go to the county court to pursue a claim if a consignment was bad: "They are beyond the law, and as a result the remedies are often lawless."

Tate, aged 37, Tucker, 38, and Rolfe, 26, were business associates in the drugs world and operated rather like merchant venturers. Sometimes they would pool their resources to buy a cargo and get a discount, Mr Steele, Mr

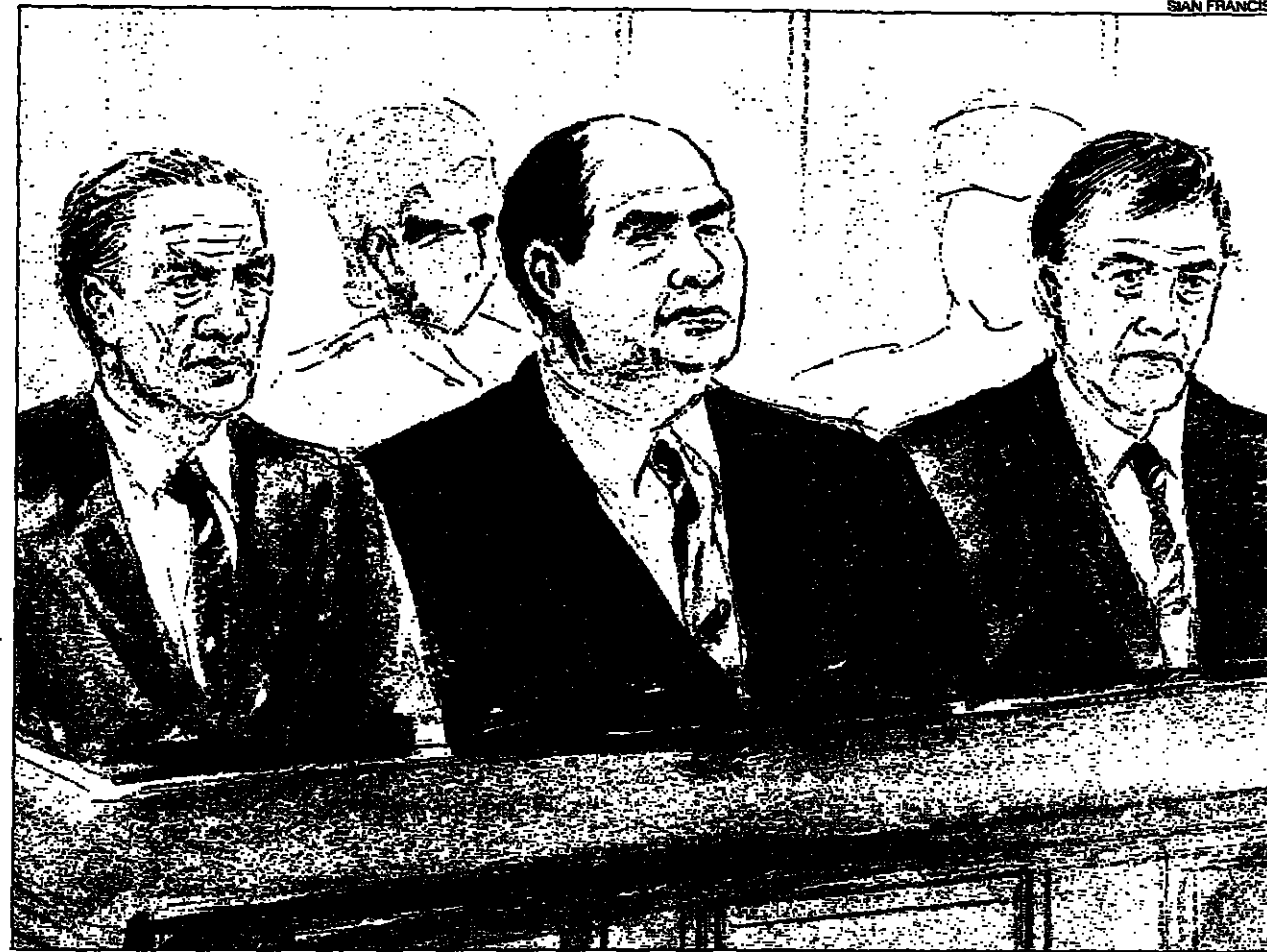
Whomes and Mr Corry were said to have smuggled drugs from Holland to Britain, using fast open boats to bring their cargo to the East Coast.

In November 1995, the quality of one consignment was so poor that there were complaints and some had to be dumped. Refunds were provided, but Mr Steele said that there were disagreements between him and Tate, and there were threats against him from the dealer.

Tate was said to have threatened to make Mr Steele beg on his knees and then kill him. Mr Steele, said Mr Munday, decided to eliminate the threat once and for all.

Tate and his friends were lured to the country lane on a cold, snowy night, with the promise of a cocaine consignment. Mr Steele had claimed that he was bringing the consignment into Essex for others. Tate and his group felt that they could have the chance to intercept the cargo, killing the courier if necessary.

In fact, said Mr Munday, there never was a cocaine consignment, but Tate "bit upon the hook hidden within



The accused: Michael Steele, left, and Jack Whomes deny murder. Peter Corry, right, denies drug smuggling

the bait". Excited by the prospect of the drugs, he and his friends drove to the lane.

When their car was found the next day, Tucker was sitting in the front with a mobile telephone in his hand. He was shot three times. So was Tate. Rolfe had been shot twice. Mr Munday said it

looked as though someone had started to get out of the rear of the car, and been handed a pump-action or self-loading shotgun by a second person and opened fire. Alternatively, the holder of the gun came up and opened fire.

After the killings, Mr Steele was alleged to have been

heard to boast that he had "sorted them out" and that they would not be threatening him again.

Mr Munday told the jury they might find it chilling that the two killers later allegedly laughed at the fact that, at one point during the ambush, one of the guns in the shootings

had fallen apart when Mr Steele tried to use it.

Mr Steele, Mr Whomes and Mr Corry were arrested in May 1996 on drug charges, with a fourth man, Darren Nicholls. The court was told that he would be giving evidence in the case.

The trial continues.

Teenage gang leader 'hacked pupil to death'

By TIM JONES

A TEENAGE gang leader with a fixation for martial arts and the Triads killed a rival student with a machete outside a school's gates, an Old Bailey jury was told yesterday.

Carl Rickard, 14, died two weeks after being slashed on the head by a machete wielded by the 15-year-old boy, who was a leader of a gang called the Golden Snakes. Members modelled themselves on the Chinese Triads, Orlando Pownall, for the prosecution, said the accused, a pupil at Thomas Tallis School in Kidbrooke, southeast London, killed Carl with a machete he kept in a locker at the nearby Kidbrooke School. The attack was in revenge for an alleged attack on a friend by Carl, who was known as "CJ".

The defendant, who cannot be named, plotted the gang's revenge in the playing field of Thomas Tallis School the day before and ambushed Carl as he left Kidbrooke School in January.

He and seven other gang members arrived at the school

in two mini-cabs after issuing a warning that they intended to "beat up CJ". As Carl left his school at about 3.30pm he was spotted by the defendant. Mr Pownall said: "One of the gang punched Rickard in the face and then the whole gang attacked him. The initial attack was short-lived and he was quickly overwhelmed."

The defendant, who was at the back of the group, pulled his machete from the sheath and shouted at them to move away. He then struck Rickard over the head. Rickard was left shouting for help, bleeding profusely from a head wound. After the attack the defendant had boasted: "We got him. We done the job. I chopped him."

Carl suffered compound fractures of his skull and was flown by helicopter to the Royal London Hospital in Whitechapel. He died there on February 7. Mr Pownall said the defendant, who admits manslaughter but denies murder, had arranged a false alibi after the attack.

The trial continues.

Mobile phone saves woman trapped in mud

By RICHARD DUCE

AN EMERGENCY call from her mobile telephone saved the life of Corrine Kamara as she sank deep into mudflats beside the Thames. When police discovered her, she was pitching face down into the mud.

Miss Kamara, 18, slipped and sank up to her waist while walking her dog near Hammersmith Bridge. She rang for help and was rescued an hour later, after using the telephone to identify nearby landmarks for the police.

Tracy Churchill, who helped to co-ordinate the search, said yesterday: "Her speech was garbled because she was being dragged under and was starting to breathe in mud. She was petrified."

"She was sinking and had been thrust forward on to her face by the force of the mud. We knew we didn't have long to find her."

A spokesman for Charing Cross Hospital said that Miss Kamara would have probably been dead if police had reached her 30 minutes later.

She was kept in hospital overnight for observation.

Miss Kamara fell into the mud on Sunday evening and was rescued at 10.10pm. Chief Inspector Alan Chambers said the river police tried to beach their boat over the mudbank to reach Miss Kamara but stopped short. "One of the officers managed to crawl over the mud with a stretcher for buoyancy, which he then used to prop under the girl's neck to keep her head free. She was suffering from hypothermia."

"The officer tried to calm her while the London Fire Brigade assembled ladders across the mudbank to reach her. They managed to attach a harness which they used to free her."

Mr Chambers, of Richmond police, said: "The mobile phone saved her life. The area is a storm drain, which means the mud is particularly soft and dangerous."

Miss Kamara, of Shepherds Bush, was unavailable for comment last night. Her alibi was found safe.

Man dies in blast near army base

By SIMON DE BRUXELLES

A MAN died and another was seriously injured in an explosion that partly demolished a council house near the Army's headquarters in Wales. Police and army bomb disposal experts sealed off the house in Brecon after the explosion on Sunday night.

The dead man was named as Andrew Cridland, 30, who lived in the house. The seriously injured man was identified as his friend, Paul Horner, 36, also from Brecon.

Explosives and detonators found in the debris are believed to be commercially available blasting equipment used in the quarrying and mining industries. Detective Chief Superintendent Jeff Thomas disclosed that British



The Brecon house damaged by the explosion

Army plastic explosive was found during a search of Mr Horner's home, but said police were not linking the find with terrorism.

After the explosion, at about 10pm on Sunday, more than

20 neighbouring homes on the Dolglas estate were evacuated. Staff Sergeant Neil Gambon, an army instructor, said he rushed out of his home, which was damaged by the blast, and entered the

wrecked building with Tom Reynolds, another neighbour. "I was watching a soccer match on television and heard the blast," he said. "At first I thought it was a car bomb that had gone off."

"One man was obviously dead and the other man was conscious and in a lot of pain. Tom and I started to give him first aid but the emergency services told us to get out of the house because of safety fears."

Police believe the explosion occurred in the lounge and that both men were in the room at the time. Mr Horner, who suffered severe head, chest and limb injuries, is critically ill in the Nevill Hall Hospital, Abergavenny.

A military spokesman at Brecon confirmed that the two men were not in the Forces.

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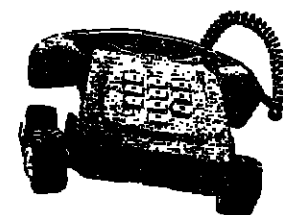
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A high-contrast, black and white aerial photograph of a multi-lane highway. The image shows several lanes of traffic moving away from the viewer. On the left side of the road, a person is standing near the bottom of the frame. The vehicles are mostly dark, with one large white van prominent in the right lane. The road has white dashed lane markings. The overall image has a grainy, high-contrast quality.

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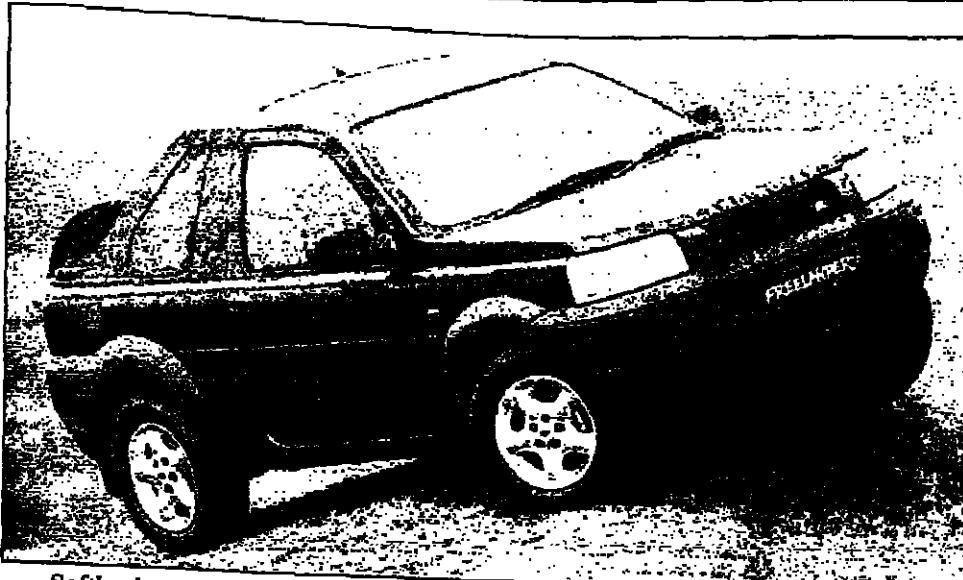
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Softback version of the Freelander, for sportier types who appreciate fresh air

Land Rover aims new 'baby' at the GTi generation

Kevin Eason on the Freelander, a small off-roader that could be Britain's answer to the Japanese

THE once-traditional, rather agricultural image associated with Land Rover received another jolt yesterday when the company unveiled its model for the GTi generation.

The Freelander, ranging in price from £15,000 to £20,000, will be Land Rover's smallest and cheapest vehicle when it arrives in showrooms in January. It is aimed at younger buyers who do not want a big off-road vehicle or cannot afford one.

Buying the car will be only the start of a "shopping experience", for Land Rover's marketing men have devised dozens of accessories they believe will be as attractive as the vehicle. Shoes, sweaters, jackets, caps, watches, even a £1,500 mountain bike, are all designed to promote sales.

Once buyers have selected the model of their choice, they will be able to add body styles, graphics and equipment ranging from ski racks to a fridge. The Freelander will no longer be bought from a showroom but at a Land Rover centre, where customers can experience off-road driving and buy the cars and accessories together.

The vehicle is the latest attempt to transform the image of a company that for 50 years has produced one of Britain's most instantly recognisable vehicles, the Land

Rover. The first innovation was the Range Rover, then the Discovery, and now the Freelander. It is crucial to the future of the much-buffeted Rover Group, now owned by BMW, which sanctioned production. It is creating 500 jobs at Solihull in the West Midlands, where production is scheduled almost to double to more than 200,000 within three years. Such output would put Solihull among the biggest production centres in the British motor industry, with production at four times the 1988 level.

The company's 135 dealers have invested £100 million in upgrading their showrooms or building Land Rover centres for the arrival of the "baby" off-roader. With the Freelander, Land Rover is challenging rivals from Japan and Korea which have traditionally dominated the mar-

ket. It will have to compete with yet another 4x4 vehicle launched yesterday, the Subaru Forester, which will go on sale later this month priced at about £16,000.

Peter Kinnaird, Land Rover's commercial director, said: "We are appealing directly to those people who perhaps once had a GTi or a hatchback, people who would never have thought of buying an off-road vehicle before."

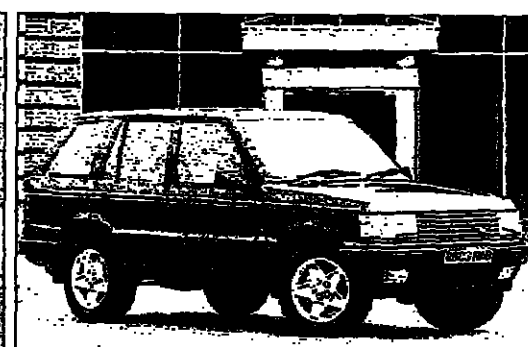
"Land Rover is a wonderful brand name around the world and we want to exploit that by selling an entire package to the buyer. This has been an enormous design project for our people but has resulted in a vehicle we believe buyers have waited years for."

For once, the design is entirely British, having got off the ground as the company's 16-year partnership with Honda was ending. Designers were set the task of producing a vehicle the length of a hatchback but with the potential off-road performance of a Defender, Land Rover's rugged cross-country machine used by the military and aid agencies.

It also had to be versatile, according to Gerry McGovern, Rover's chief designer. "Japanese competitors tend to be fashionable now and forgotten tomorrow, but a Land Rover is a vehicle which has to



Land Rover admits Freelanders are unlikely to stray much further off road than the pavement outside a wine bar



Land Rover has progressively updated the agricultural image of the County station wagon, through the Range Rover to the Discovery

be timeless because owners expect them to be durable and instantly recognisable."

So the Freelander comes in three styles: a five-door station wagon, a three-door hardtop, and a softop. Power comes from 1.8-litre petrol or 2-litre turbo-charged diesels engines.

Land Rover readily admits that the nearest these vehicles will probably get to going off-road is parking on the pave-

ment outside a wine bar. Nevertheless, the company wants owners to feel confident that their vehicles might be small but that they will tackle tough terrain if required.

Four-wheel-drive is permanent for maximum grip. The unwieldy low-ratio gearstick has gone, to be replaced by a neat yellow button that controls the car electronically at low speeds on steep inclines or

in mud through the standard anti-lock braking system.

This Land Rover departs from a 50-year design concept. Until now, all Land Rovers have been built on a separate "ladder" chassis, onto which body panels are bolted. The Freelander has a traditional, car-like chassis and one-piece body that simply drops into place on the assembly line.

Land Rover also promises

that Freelander will be one of the safest cars on the road. It has already put the vehicle through the controversial European NCAP crash tests and is confident the vehicle will win the full four-star rating.

For the terminally clumsy who park more by touch than sight, there is an innovation to ease repair costs. Side panels are made of a new material

called Noryl GTX, a composite plastic which bends and then pops out again on impact instead of denting. It can be painted as easily as metal or unbolted and thrown away.

Land Rover says this will make Freelander among the cheapest cars to repair, although Steve Haywood, the chief engineer, said: "We are not recommending owners try it out the hard way."

DETAILS

Land Rover Freelander

Price: £16,000 to £20,000

Styles: Three-door softback, three-door hardback and five-door station wagon

Engines: four-cylinder 1.8-litre K-series petrol or 2-litre diesel through five-speed manual gearbox and permanent four-wheel-drive

Dimensions: 4,382mm long, 2,074mm wide, 1,757mm tall

Performance: petrol 0 to 60mph, 11.1 seconds; top speed, 102mph; fuel consumption 27.6mpg average. Diesel 14.6 seconds, 96mph, 36.6mpg

Equipment: power steering, driver airbag, three-point seatbelts for all seats, remote central locking, alarm and immobiliser, spare wheel on tailgate, lockable stowage box on rear floor, high-mounted stop lamp

Competition: Toyota Rav4, Honda CR-V, Suzuki Vitara

Unknown reaches the top of the pile with first film script

FROM DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT, IN VENICE

A NOVICE writer is to have his first script turned into a television film, starring Kenneth Branagh and Helena Bonham Carter. It is the first time in more than a decade that the work of a complete unknown has been plucked from the thousands of scripts sent to the BBC each year.

Richard Hawkins, 31, who decided to try writing after drifting between careers, said: "I don't know why I did it - probably in the absence of anything else to do."

The *Theory of Flight* tells the story of a woman in a wheelchair, suffering from motor neurone disease, and an artist obsessed with building an airplane. Mr Hawkins said: "I've never met anyone in my life with motor neurone disease. The research came later."

He left school after A Levels with "no idea what I would do" and taught English in

Kenneth Branagh and Helena Bonham Carter: They will star in *The Theory of Flight* for BBC

Istanbul for a while. His father served with the Royal Air Force and his mother worked in a careers office, but even she could not help out with ideas. Eventually, he did some journalism and theatre production. Working in films had never been a dream.

One day he decided to give himself four months to write a

script. After 18 months of combining writing with re-building his cottage in central Wales, he finished it. Plans to film it himself were frustrated by the indecision of possible backers, so he sent it to the BBC, with a note asking to be told whether it was any good.

He said: "It seemed like an easy avenue for an opinion. I

always thought the thing was awful. But I got a funny letter back, saying something like, 'Hi, I like it, give me a call.'"

At the Venice Film Festival - where the BBC is dominating the selection of British films being screened - David Thompson, head of BBC films, recalled: "It shone out from the 'slush pile', as we call it. We receive many scripts, but we do take the trouble to read them."

"This is not a po-faced 'disease movie', but an edgy and tender piece of writing. It is a good example of how the BBC is well-positioned to hook into new talent."

The BBC receives hundreds of scripts every week. The literary agent Julian Friedmann, who is sent an average of 500 a month, has noted that the number increases when unemployment figures rise.

Commenting on whether he now wanted to pursue a full-time career in scriptwriting, Mr Hawkins said: "I hope so. I have a lack of other careers."

Grisly surgery site discovered

Nigel Hawkes on the theatre where Tyburn bodies were publicly dissected

THE site of the anatomy theatre where executed criminals from Tyburn were dissected in public by the barber-surgeons of London has been discovered.

Built in 1636 to a design by Inigo Jones, the oval building was close to the Barber-Surgeons Hall in the Barbican. Among visitors who came to watch the dissections was Samuel Pepys, who ate heartily as soon as the entertainment was over.

The professions of barber and surgeon were linked in the Middle Ages and the Barber-Surgeons Company was founded in 1540. The theatre fell into disuse when the surgeons split off in 1745 to form their own company, later the Royal College of Surgeons. In 1784 what re-

mained of the theatre was sold to a builder, who carried away the stone and left only the foundations.

Their precise position has been located using ground-penetrating radar. Bill McCann and Paul Mackie, of the Clark Laboratory at the Museum of London, report the operation in *Physics World*. Low-frequency radio waves penetrate the surface of the soil, bouncing off buried objects.

Dennis Hill, a retired medical physicist who is a liveryman at the present Barber-Surgeons Hall, built in the 1960s, is behind the investigation. He wants to raise £8,000 to have the site excavated.

"This was a fascinating place," Professor Hill said. "There were a series of raised



A condemned man being taken to Tyburn gallows. Some of the executed became medical specimens

benches, from which surgeons being trained would learn anatomy by watching dissections. Each year the hall was entitled to the bodies of four criminals who had been executed at Tyburn. I suspect that they may have dissected paupers' bodies too."

Tyburn gallows were near

Marble Arch, and were used from the 14th century to execute felons and religious martyrs. Crowds lined the roads to watch the condemned drawn to Tyburn and paid for grandstand seats to watch the executions. The last took place in 1783, after which the gallows were moved to Newgate Prison.

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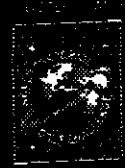
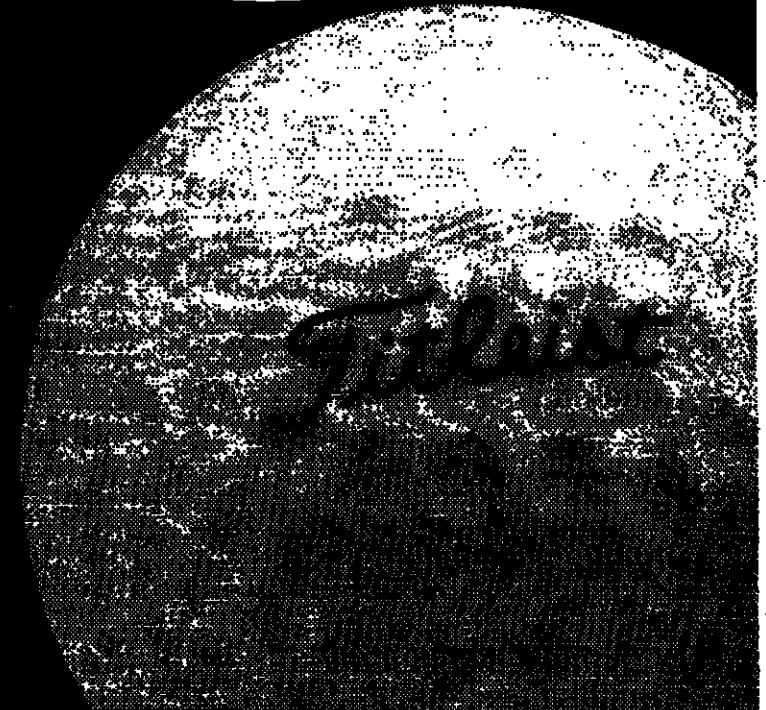
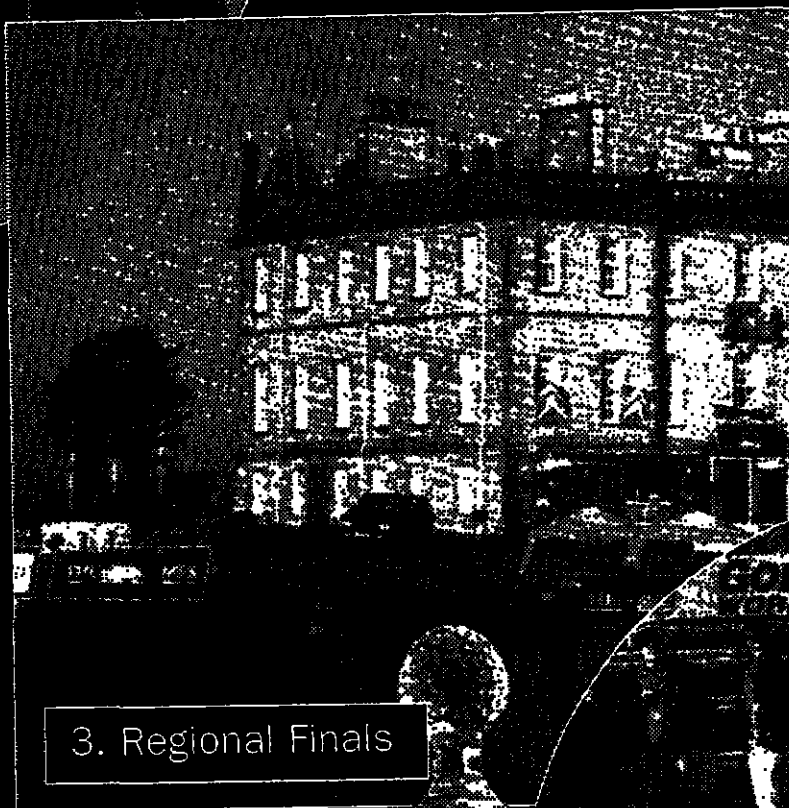
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Boy dies after getting stuck in tumble dryer

Three-year-old suffocated when door shut behind him as he was playing hide-and-seek, writes Richard Duce

A FATHER described yesterday how his three-year-old son suffocated after he climbed into a tumble dryer and became stuck.

Tony Hutchinson organised neighbours to look for his son, Jordan, after he vanished last Saturday afternoon. When the police were called in an hour later they found the body. It is thought the boy may have been playing a game of hide-and-seek in the kitchen with the family's dog.

Mr Hutchinson, of Slatyford, Newcastle upon Tyne, said: "It was a freak accident. The last place I thought of looking for Jordan was the tumble dryer. I would warn other parents to put their tumble dryers on benches. I know it may look silly, but if

it saves your child's life then it will be worth it."

The dryer had been bought when Jordan was born, to help cope with the extra washing. "We could never have imagined it would be involved in his death," his father said.

Mr Hutchinson, unemployed, had been upstairs with his other son, Lewis, 11 months, and returned to find no sign of Jordan. "The side gate was open so I presumed he had gone into the street. I went looking for him and the neighbours came out too."

"Manufacturers ought to make a point of having clear glass fronts to such machines. If ours had a clear glass front I would have seen him in there straightaway."

He added: "It has devastated



Tony Hutchinson: called in neighbours to help

us and it has brought home how, no matter how hard you try, you cannot keep your eyes on your children every minute of the day.

"He was a lovely little lad. I don't feel like I have lost just a son, I feel I have lost my best mate too. He was such an intelligent little boy."

His wife, Louise, 27, who is expecting a third child and was at work last Saturday, said: "From what we can

gather, his jeans caught the door and pulled it behind him. The doctor said he would have died in minutes because of the airtight seal. He was in the foetal position and his knees were pressed right up to his chest. He was in such a confined space he would not have been able to shout for help."

An inquest into Jordan's death was opened and adjourned yesterday for the police inquiry. A spokesman for Northumbria Police said: "There are no suspicious circumstances. It appears to have been a tragic accident."

The maker of the dryer, Creda, said it had begun its own investigation. A spokesman for the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents said: "The best advice is to keep the door of washing machines and tumble dryers shut. Some manufacturers recommend the door is left open to allow the machine to dry, but when young children are around that shouldn't happen."



Jordan, 3, who is believed to have died in minutes after the door swung shut

Makers urged to redesign locks

A SIMPLE design modification could be made to tumble dryers and washer-dryers to prevent the accident that killed Jordan Hutchinson. It was claimed yesterday.

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RSPA) suggested that dryers could have a secondary locking device so that a closed door could still be opened from inside. But if a user wanted to operate the machine an external button would have to be pressed to lock the door.

The death of Jordan is expected to lead to a review of machine design by manufacturers. Fridge designs were changed after a number of children became trapped. Locks were replaced by magnetic seals which meant the door could be opened from the inside.

However, both RSPA and the makers emphasised that the best way to avoid accidents was to ensure constant supervision of children.

Rocket man opts for more space

By RUSSELL JENKINS

MANCHESTER'S rocket man is abandoning Britain for the Arctic Circle. Steve Bennett has had enough of the windswept army testing ranges in Otterburn, Northumberland, and plans to launch his next space shot from Kiruna in northern Sweden.

Last month's attempt to launch his 22ft rocket, Lexa, had to be called off because the wind was blowing in the wrong direction. Mr Bennett took the decision at the last moment because he would have had to launch the rocket into the wind in the direction of Newcastle upon Tyne.

Lexa, ten times more powerful than its predecessor, is designed to reach further into the Earth's atmosphere than any other amateur rocket. Its creator is confident that it will climb 15 miles at Mach 3.

Mr Bennett, from Dukinfield, said: "Otterburn is just about big enough but, as was proved last month, if the weather is not up to scratch we have to abort. So we are going to go to Kiruna because it is a massive site. It is much larger than Otterburn. The weather will probably be just as bad as up in Northumberland, but because the site is so big it does not matter."

Leading article, page 19

Plagiarist poet adds a line of apology

By A STAFF REPORTER

A DISGRACED poet has apologised for copying two other writers. Alan M. Kent admitted that he "modified" Scottish works and claimed them as his own in Cornwall.

An anthology, *Modern Cornish Poets*, which includes Kent's writings, will continue to be sold, but will contain an erratum slip acknowledging the Scottish poets Derick Thomson and Meg Bateman. Kent is also due to meet Cornwall officials before he starts a new job as adviser on English and drama for the county council.

A statement agreed with Kent's lawyers and publishers said: "The work of Professor Thomson and of other poets in that tradition, concerning issues facing contemporary Celtic cultures, resonated deeply with Mr Kent's own experience of urgent problems that Cornwall shares."

Kent changed the title of Bateman's poem *Hard for me your going back to Ireland* into *Hard for me your return to England*, and referred to the Tamar instead of the North Channel. The agreement has been struck between Canongate Press, the Scots publishers, and Lyonesse, Kent's publisher, which is based at his parents' home.

Alert on drugs in pregnancy



MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttford

DOCTORS have been reminded of the care needed when prescribing drugs for pregnant women, or those who might become pregnant.

The Committee on Safety of Medicines and the Medicines Control Agency have written to doctors today to emphasise that any drug should be prescribed during pregnancy only if the benefits for both mother and child outweigh the risks. Sometimes a risk has to be accepted, but it has to be balanced against the greater hazards if the drug is withheld.

As an example the reminder quotes the problems that can arise in the treatment of epilepsy, for although some anticonvulsants can occasionally cause foetal abnormalities so, too, can the poor level of oxygenation in the blood that occurs during an epileptic seizure.

Doctors are reminded to be particularly careful about prescribing benzodiazepines. This group of drugs includes tranquilisers such as Valium (diazepam) and Ativan (lorazepam), and sleeping pills including Mogadon (nitrazepam) and Normison (temazepam).

Benzodiazepines cross the placental barrier. There has been argument about whether such drugs can cause foetal abnormalities such as cleft palates and heart defects.

There is less controversy about the influence on a child's development if the mother has taken benzodiazepines regularly during pregnancy. Fortunately by the age of four the child's development has usually caught up with that of his or her contemporaries.

The letter emphasises that when benzodiazepines are taken in late pregnancy the child is more likely to suffer from hypothermia and respiratory depression, and that their limbs will be unusually "floppy". If the woman has relied upon heavy doses of benzodiazepines the newborn child may suffer withdrawal symptoms and be unusually irritable and have difficulty with feeding.

Doctors are advised that it is unwise to prescribe benzodiazepines to mothers who are breastfeeding as these drugs are excreted in the milk.

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Brazil revives Devil's Train in jungle tomb

A LEGENDARY Brazilian railway line, completed in 1912 at the cost of the lives of thousands of British, American, German and Barbadian workers, is being resurrected from the jungle.

Known as the Devil's Train — legend has it that "one man died for every sleeper laid down" — the Madeira Mamore Railway had been Brazil's price to neighbouring Bolivia for annexing the territory of Acre during the rubber boom.

Brazil agreed to construct a line across the rapids of the Madeira and Mamore rivers, giving Bolivia an outlet of sorts to the Atlantic Ocean. What it failed to foresee was the human cost of building a path through one of the most inhospitable corners of the world.

Along the 228-mile stretch, some 6,500 engineers and railway workers died building the track between 1907 and 1912. "There were tropical



Gabriella Gamini reports from Porto Velho, Brazil, on the resurrection of a railway that cost the lives of thousands

diseases, venomous snakes and insects, the terrain often caved in, terrible rains caused bridges to collapse," said Antonio Candido da Silva, a local historian. The line was abandoned in 1971 because the authorities could no longer afford to repair it.

Now a group of railway enthusiasts in the frontier town of Porto Velho, the capital of the Rondonia state, has decided to restore the line to its old grandeur. They have cleared the first 15 miles of track and pulled seven vintage steam engines from the underground. The engines will be restored. A brick-built main station at Porto Velho has

been renovated and a railway museum displays other restored treasures.

"We have started running a service every Sunday along a four-mile stretch of the track, mostly for locals going to church or tourists who come this way," said Ruy Motta, the Culture Secretary for Rondonia, who is the restoration of the line. "More than 50 engines and wagons remain abandoned beside the track, several iron bridges are covered in vegetation and the best part of the line is still to be reclaimed, so there is much left to do," he said.

One of the newly restored locomotives, No 50, was fired



A newly restored locomotive in Porto Velho. The line, built to provide transport during the Amazon rubber boom, is expected to draw tourists

up and put into action for *The Times*. The vintage steam engine was made by a Philadelphia company which shipped dozens of locomotives and wagons into the Amazon at the turn of the century. It puffed and whistled as it pulled three newly painted wooden carriages along the narrow-gauge track leading from Porto Velho to San Antonio, a church that was

built in 1908 by some of the railway workers.

Many locals see the resurrection of the railway as a means to attract more tourism to these far reaches. But for master boiler-maker, Arthur Yinter, 72, it is also a chance to "make it up" to his ancestors. Like several of Porto Velho's inhabitants, his Barbadian-born father was one of the workers who came to the

Amazon jungle to build the line.

"My father built this line and like many, he died of malaria. We cannot let the Devil's Train be buried for ever," he said.

A British firm, Public Works Construction Company, was among the first to send engineers to survey the area in 1900. After losing several hundred workers to

malaria, yellow fever and other tropical diseases it pulled out.

An American adventurer, Colonel George Church, then spearheaded efforts to find financing and construct the line.

He only got as far as importing several dozen locomotives before he too succumbed to illness. The Brazilian Government finally

engaged an American company to build the track.

Hundreds of Karipuna Indians died trying to steal the electric lines. Although it was built to provide transport during the rubber boom in the Amazon, the railway was only finished by the time the rubber price crashed and Asian countries replaced Brazil as the world's main rubber producers.

Mexican leader pledges support

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI

PRESIDENT ZEDILLO of Mexico has cemented the opening of a new political era by promising to work with the country's newly elected Congress, the first in seven decades not controlled by the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI).

In an annual "state of the union" address, traditionally a ritual celebration of the President's "imperial" powers, Señor Zedillo distanced himself from members of his party by pledging his "readiness to establish a relationship of respect" with the new opposition-controlled Congress.

His speech on Monday came after days of uncertainty during which PRI members had threatened to boycott the opening of Congress. "Neither the PRI nor the Government ever imagined they could lose the majority," Santiago Creel, a newly elected member of the opposition National Action Party, said. "This is a legislature that is just waking up from a 70-year sleep."

The PRI has been in disarray since it suffered a humiliating defeat in parliamentary elections on July 6, which handed control of the Congress to four opposition parties. Although the PRI still holds the presidency it won only 39 per cent of the vote.

Church 'let paedophile work as a priest'

BY TUNKU VARADARAJAN

OFFICIALS of the Roman Catholic Church in America allowed a paedophile priest to work unchecked for at least 20 years, never hindering his contact with young boys even though, according to *The Dallas Morning News*, they were always aware of his sexual history and predilections.

The newspaper, which has published an extensive account of the Church's alleged connivance in the affair, said several officials, including at least two bishops, knew that Father David Holley had molested boys at parishes in four different states. Holley was sentenced to 275 years in prison in 1993.

The scandal comes just over a month after a Texas jury ordered the Diocese of Dallas to pay \$119 million (£70 million) in damages for ignoring and covering up a "mountain of evidence" of the sexual abuse of altar boys by Rudolph Kos, another paedophile priest.

The disclosure that church officials failed to act in the Holley case is expected to lead to another civil action. The cover-ups, unearthed in letters and internal church documents, are uncannily similar to the ones in the Kos affair.

Holley served in at least five parishes, leaving each one under a cloud.



Chris Foote and Spring Wright, shot as they slept

Bounty hunters kill innocent couple

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

FIVE bounty hunters in search of their "quarry" shot dead an innocent couple as they lay in bed at night in their home in Phoenix, Arizona.

The five men, all wearing ski masks, kicked down the door to the home of Chris Foote, 23, and his girlfriend Spring Wright, 20, at 4am on Sunday.

Believing that a bedroom was occupied by a man who had jumped bail in California, and on whose head there rested a reward of \$25,000 (£15,600), they burst in, firing a hail of bullets on the couple as they slept.

The man they were searching for had never been in the house, and was unknown to

either of the occupants. Yesterday, Phoenix police said that they had arrested three men, charging them with second-degree murder, but two others they are seeking are still at large.

The case, which the local district attorney has described as "troubling", should focus attention on the murky world of bounty hunters, who need no court orders or warrants to bring bail jumpers back to prison.

A federal law from 1790 allows bounty hunters to enter and search houses without judicial authorisation, but stipulates that the hunters act "within the bounds of reasonableness".

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Sex scandal fails to snare church leader

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

THE president of the National Baptist Convention, the largest black church in the United States, has survived an attempt to impeach him for adultery and the embezzlement of church funds, winning a controversial vote of confidence from the denomination's executive board.

As his supporters gave impassioned sermons — "Don't let white America tell us how to do your will, O Lord," cried one pastor to a packed congregation at the annual Baptist Convention in Denver — the Rev Henry Lyons denied any wrongdoing and called for reconciliation.

Mr Lyons, who is a close friend of President Clinton, took office in 1994 as leader of the Baptists, a denomination which accounts for a quarter of all black Americans.

A feisty Floridian, he promised to clean up the church, whose ledgers then revealed a rather slovenly approach to accounting. However, damaging accusations of peculation

began to be made against the church leader, none of which he was able to rebut.

Matters came to a head when he hired Bernice Edwards — a woman with a conviction for embezzlement — to the post of the denomination's corporate public relations director. Not only did Mr Lyons pay her \$440,000 (£270,000) in commissions, he allegedly began a sexual liaison with her. This culminated in the purchase of a commodious "love nest" in an upmarket waterfront quarter of St Petersburg, in Florida. The church's money was used to pay for the home.

Details of Mr Lyons's alleged affair with Ms Edwards were splashed across American newspapers in July after his wife Deborah, was found attempting to set fire to the St Petersburg mansion and charged with burglary and arson.

Although Mrs Lyons, who was arrested and later released on \$10,000 bail, spoke out angrily against her husband's "infidelity" at the time of the incident, she later withdrew her accusations, saying instead that she had "inadvertently dropped a lit match on a carpet, unfortunately causing a minor blaze".

A series of media reports followed, accusing Mr Lyons of misusing church money to buy property, cars and jewellery for Ms Edwards. Records also reveal that he bought a \$27,500 Lexus car as a "gift" for a former church employee.

Mr Lyons's defenders rounded on the "white" media, accusing them of trying to debilitate one of black America's foremost institutions. The National Baptist Convention is 117 years old, has 33,000 churches across the country and 8.5 million parishioners. It has played a seminal role in promoting black education and civil rights.

Yet opponents of Mr Lyons have vowed to continue fighting to get rid of him. Leaders of 350 Baptist churches have formed a "Coalition for a Better Convention".

An angry anti-Lyons pastor said: "As Christians we are taught to love everybody and forgive. But we cannot conduct 'business as usual' in a case like this."



Deborah Lyons: dropped match "inadvertently"



The Rev Henry Lyons, facing claims of adultery and embezzlement, denied any wrongdoing and urged reconciliation

Congress set for new battle over welfare

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

CONGRESS formally reopens today to acrimony, pitting Republican leaders against President Clinton in a battle over the welfare reform programme, which is driving the biggest social experiment in America for decades.

Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the House of Representatives, who is struggling for political survival after a failed Republican coup against his leadership, plans a fierce, national campaign against Mr Clinton's proposal to give people on welfare-to-work schemes all the benefits and protections of conventional employees.

Yesterday, as the Senate reassembled a day before the House, Mr Clinton, Mr Gingrich, Trent Lott, Senate Majority Leader and Vice-President Al Gore strolled together across the grass of Capitol Hill in a picture of bipartisan harmony. But that image conceals the gulf still gaping over the details of welfare reform, which both sides claim as their main achievement this year.

Republican state governors, who have pioneered the schemes to force people off welfare and into work, say Mr Clinton's plans will scupper the entire project, which they argue is showing the first indisputable signs of success.

Yesterday Tommy Thompson, Republican Governor of Wisconsin and architect of one of the most ambitious schemes to cut welfare rolls, pressed the button on the latest and harshest stage of his reforms. From September 1, no one in Wisconsin will receive any kind of benefit without participating in a job-search programme.

Under Mr Thompson's mantra "Everybody can do something", Wisconsin makes no exceptions, even for handicapped people or single mothers.

Latest figures show that the numbers living off welfare in Wisconsin have fallen from 100,000 in 1987 to below 38,000, although critics warn that the poorest people may be suffering under the reforms, and that a slowdown in the booming American economy could throw many back into unemployment.

Mr Gingrich, who has spent two weeks touring the country trying to boost his waning political fortunes, hopes to seize on the early successes of the experiment to attack Mr Clinton's plans.

He argues that giving welfare-to-work recipients all the benefits of full employment will jeopardise the entire project. Under one Clinton provision, people employed in "make-work" schemes such as sweeping town streets would be entitled to the minimum wage and unemployment benefits if they lost the "job".

Details of the welfare legislation are among a batch of Bills agreed by the House and Senate before the August break which must be signed into law by October 1, the start of the federal government budget year. Other loose ends include traditional annual tussles such as the budget for the National Endowment of the Arts and funding of abortion clinics.

It is the welfare issue, by a long way, which offers Mr Gingrich his best chance of demonstrating political clout and fending off another leadership challenge from his restless and sceptical troops.

Dutch plan to give addicts free heroin

FROM MATTHEW BEARD IN AMSTERDAM

ELS BORST, the Dutch Health Minister, faces parliament today with a controversial plan to give free heroin to 750 addicts. If approved, the scheme will run for two years and aims to integrate users back into society.

A similar scheme in Switzerland has virtually eliminated crime among addicts, but the Dutch version will be on a bigger scale. Its opponents in parliament will argue that 750 is too many to be experimenting with, but Dr Borst believes a large group is needed to provide credible results.

The liberal approach to soft drugs worries European neighbours, especially France and Belgium, which claim Dutch tolerance of cannabis poses serious problems in the absence of border controls. International pressure recently prompted the Government to cut the amount of cannabis on sale in coffee shops. Such cafes now number 1,290.

Dr Borst argues that because she has no evidence of cannabis predisposing the user to harder drugs, the Government will not prosecute individual users or small-



Borst: liberal approach opposed by some MPs

scale dealers. She believes the danger occurs when a user socialises where soft and hard drugs are available together.

"The separation of the markets does work," she says, pointing out that the Dutch record on combating hard drug addiction is better than in neighbouring countries. Other countries' police and prosecuting authorities recognise that criminalising soft-drug use is counterproductive, she maintains, but are unwilling to convince a sceptical public. Last month Dr Borst approved a "weed pill" containing a painkiller extracted from marijuana.

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Jail for Danes who sent bombs to Britain

By CHRISTOPHER FOLLETT
in Copenhagen

THE Danish High Court yesterday jailed three neo-Nazis for between three and eight years for attempting to send letter-bombs to targets in Britain. The three were found guilty by a jury.

The defendants, all Danes, were Thomas Derry, Nakaba, Michael Volder and Nicky Steensgaard. Nakaba was jailed for eight years for manufacturing and attempting to send three letter-bombs through the post to British addresses. Volder and Steensgaard received three-year sentences as accomplices.

One of the bombs was addressed to Sharon Davies, the television presenter, who is married to the black athlete, Derek Redmond. Another was intended for the Anti-Fascist Action organisation and the third for a wing of the far-right Combat 18 group in Britain. This was part of a feud between international neo-Nazi factions.

Danish police testified that the devices, disguised as video cassettes, contained dummy explosive but real detonators which could have blown off a recipient's hand.

Danish detectives, tipped off by Scotland Yard, intercepted the bombs after they were posted in mid-January in the Swedish port of Malmö, across the Baltic Sound from Copenhagen.

Nakaba claimed that he was acting under orders from a faction of Combat 18, named after the first and eighth letters of the alphabet, A and H, the initials of Adolf Hitler. Nakaba said that an Englishman linked to the group visited him in Denmark and gave him explosives, a pistol, and the addresses to which the bombs were to be sent.

Humbled Short agrees to visit volcano island

By TOM RHODES in MONTERRAT and PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

CLARE SHORT, the International Development Secretary, made a tacit apology to Montserrat yesterday, agreeing to visit the volcano-ravaged colony within two months to oversee a new long-term plan for the island's development.

The announcement of the visit by George Foulkes, her deputy who ended his own tour of Montserrat yesterday, came after Ms Short's refusal of an invitation by the island's Government and comments in which she accused local leaders of deliberately misrepresenting British offers of help.

Mr Foulkes, who also announced a five-year "sustainable development plan" for Montserrat to be funded by Britain and the European Union, has failed during his trip to apologise publicly for his department's apparent mishandling of policy.

Last month Mr Foulkes, reading from the wrong report by the Montserrat Volcano Observatory, had predicted a "cataclysmic eruption", sparking evacuation panic among islanders. His comments were compounded by Ms Short, who said she was exasperated by the Montserrat Government's "silly political games" and "hysterical scaremongering" in its demands for an improved financial package to help the 5,000 residents who

have remained since the Soufrière Hills volcano started to erupt two years ago.

She said the local authorities would next be demanding "golden elephants" from London and, despite an almost empty diary, cited future trips to Bangladesh, Hong Kong and Africa as reasons why she could not undertake a visit to the Caribbean.

Ms Short was then removed from oversight of the Montserrat affair and replaced by a taskforce headed by Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary. It came as part of government efforts to mend fences with the colony and to salvage the Prime Minister's "caring" foreign policy.

Bernie Grant, MP for Tottenham, who has just returned from Montserrat, saw Ms Short yesterday and voiced his delight at her decision to go to the island. "We all know Clare, we all love Clare. We know she is well-intentioned," he said. He added that he had explained to the islanders that she was a "good person" and had their interests at heart.

However some of Ms Short's ministerial colleagues are still angry about her attack on Whitehall officials and parts of the Foreign Office for criticism of her handling of the affair. In an interview she criticised "vile and dishonest"

spin doctors and suggested that there was an attempt to destroy her department.

Fellow ministers have accused her of self-indulgence and naivety for going public with her complaints. Tony Blair might have come under pressure to dismiss her were it not for the death of Diana, Princess of Wales.

In Montserrat, Mr Foulkes and David Brandt, the island's Chief Minister, signed a joint declaration that would ensure healthcare, education, utilities as well as internal and external communications for all who wished to remain in the island. For those on Montserrat who want to leave, the Government will provide an initial right of unrestricted entry to the United Kingdom for two years. It will allow the islanders access to income support, housing benefit, schooling and healthcare and transport costs to Britain can be paid.

A separate financial package will be made available to those who prefer to stay. Work on a remaining batch of 200 homes to be built will continue.

Mr Foulkes declined to be specific about costs, but said the scheme would amount to much more than the £41 million spent or put aside for Montserrat.



George Foulkes talks to children at a shelter in St John, Montserrat

Hardline Serbs seize TV control from Nato

FROM TOM WALKER
in SARAJEVO

A DISPUTED television transmitter was back in the hands of Radovan Karadzic's Bosnian Serb state television network last night, although Nato denied that troops defending it had caved in to a stone-throwing mob sent to take it by the hardline Serb leadership.

In the confusing aftermath to a mêlée around the Udrigovo mast, in which American troops were at one stage forced to use teargas to repel Dr Karadzic's forces, a four-point plan was thrashed out, satisfactory to both

the hardline Bosnian Serbs and Nato. Bosnian Serb state television is to be divided into two stations — one broadcasting from Banja Luka and the west, loyal to President Plavsic, and one controlled by Dr Karadzic at the Pale studios of Sipska Radio and Television in the east.

The flashpoints in the struggle between Mrs Plavsic and Dr Karadzic are concentrated around the narrow Brcko corridor that separates the western and eastern Bosnian Serb territories.

Diplomats are convinced that the rioters who stoned Nato's Stabilisation Force (Sfor) troops in

Brcko last week were also responsible for the trouble at Udrigovo, about 20 miles south of Brcko.

Since Sunday there had been a tense stand-off, as American Sfor troops supported by Bradley light tanks cordoned off the mast after reports that Karadzic loyalists wished to destroy it, preventing Mrs Plavsic's moderate message reaching some of the 300,000 Bosnian Serbs living in the Karadzic-controlled eastern territory.

A rock-throwing mob soon arrived, and on Monday the Pale studio reported that Nato was again on the offensive, firing rubber bullets and

"poison gas". Eventually, late on Monday, American troops were forced to roll a teargas canister into the crowd, which dispersed yesterday after the agreement.

"I understand it went through at the very highest level," one diplomat said. General Wesley Clarke, the Nato commander, was said to have helped to draft the agreement. Under the plan, the Pale studios must not incite violence against Sfor and must allow opposition politicians and Mrs Plavsic reasonable air time.

Carlos Westendorp, the High Representative in Bosnia, will be given a half-hour slot in which he will

explain Sfor's actions in Brcko, during which US troops attempted in vain to help Mrs Plavsic install her police in the town's central station.

The points are all laudable, but such agreements are flouted as a matter of course by Pale.

□ Grave found: International investigators from The Hague will today travel to Bihac, in far northwestern Bosnia, to examine a mass grave thought to contain the remains of up to 300 Muslims. If early reports are accurate, it could be one of the biggest mass graves of the Bosnian war, on a par with those found around Srebrenica.

WORLD SUMMARY

Burundi massacre sentences

Bujumbura: Three courts in Burundi sentenced 30 people to death for participating in massacres and assassinations since 1993, a Justice Ministry spokesman said.

The courts in Ngozi, Gitega and Bujumbura also sentenced 10 people to life imprisonment. 19 were jailed for up to 20 years and seven were acquitted. About 140 people have been sentenced to death for such crimes but only six executed, the spokesman said.

Three Burundian rebels died in an ambush by government soldiers in Bururi province in the south-east, state radio said. (Reuters)

UN go-ahead

New York: The United Nations said the new Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the former Zaire, has removed its objections to a UN investigation into suspected massacres of Rwandan Hutu refugees during its battle for power (James Bone writes). The Government had provoked protests by asking for the head of the UN team to be replaced and demanding that the team work with the Organisation of African Unity.

Alps death toll

Paris: Ninety-five people died climbing in the French Alps this summer, matching the toll last year, police reported. Of the victims, 36 were killed on Mont Blanc, Europe's highest peak and the most visited in the Alps. Most of those killed were climbers or hikers who were inexperienced or had poor training. A total of 796 people were injured and there were 1,120 rescue missions. (Reuters)

Murder charges

Beira, Mozambique: Three men have been arrested on charges of killing British travellers Andrew and Caroline MacGowan in April. Their Toyota car was stolen and later found after it had been crashed, officials said. A suspect told journalists they only wanted the car and feared they would be found out if they left the two alive. (AP)

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Two cosmonauts face fines after being blamed for Mir collision

FROM RICHARD BEESTON
IN MOSCOW

RUSSIA'S space agency is likely to impose punitive fines on two cosmonauts who were yesterday formally blamed for an accident this summer involving the space station Mir.

According to Tass, a commission of inquiry has "concluded beyond doubt" that Vasili Tsibilyev, Mir's last commander, and Aleksandr Lazukin, the former flight engi-

neer, were responsible for the error that led to the collision and a supply vessel colliding on June 25. "Personally we felt sorry for the lads, but facts are facts," said Valeri Ryumin, chief co-ordinator of the Mir-Nasa programme and a member of the commission.

The details are expected to be released tomorrow, when it will become clear how much the cosmonauts may have to pay in fines. Space officials, the Russian press and even President Yeltsin have

been hinting for weeks that human error was responsible. In particular, it is alleged that the crew miscalculated the mass of the Progress supply ship. The wrong data was reportedly entered into the onboard computer leading to the worst accident in Mir's 11-year history.

As a result of the crash the Spektr module had to be abandoned and the space station lost nearly half its power. The two cosmonauts were replaced last

month and the fresh crew began the first of several space walks last week to repair the module.

The cosmonauts are unlikely to accept the commission's findings without a fight but, only days after his return to Earth, Mr Tsibilyev lashed out at the Russian authorities. He said the crew should have abandoned the spacecraft on three occasions because of breakdowns but continued to work in hazardous conditions. He insisted that Mir's problems were the result of

inadequate supplies and poor funding. "It has been a long-time tradition here in Russia to look for scapegoats," he said last month. "Of course, it is easier to put all the blame on the crew. But in this case, there is no specific person to blame."

During their six-month stay on Mir the cosmonauts received \$100 (£62.50) a day and bonuses for repair work and space walks, adding up to more than \$20,000. Their case is not hopeless, how-

ever. In June 1995, two cosmonauts, Vladimir Dezhnev and Genadi Strekalov, were each fined \$10,000 for refusing to conduct an unscheduled space walk. They appealed in court and won a ruling against Energiya, the company that operates Mir. It was forced to pay them their full salary.

One person who is not involved in the dispute is the British-born Nasa astronaut Michael Foale. Although he was also on Mir at the time of the accident, and had to

evacuate his living quarters on Spektr when the module was damaged, a spokeswoman for the US space agency insisted that the row was a purely Russian affair.

Certainly yesterday the Cambridge-educated astronaut's attention was focused elsewhere as he made preparations to carry out an arduous space walk scheduled for Saturday when he will inspect the outside of Spektr in the hope of locating where the module's hull was pierced.

America threatens to walk out of talks on landmine ban

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE United States said yesterday that it would only sign a treaty banning anti-personnel landmines if its special interests in Korea were accepted by the other countries negotiating a global convention.

Stephen Goose, of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, said Washington had indicated there was no flexibility on the Korean issue and it was willing to walk out of the conference if it lost a vote on the provision.

On the second day of the three-week negotiations in Oslo involving more than 100 countries, Eric Newsum, the American delegation leader, said: "The United States has come here with the intention of negotiating in good faith a treaty we will be able to sign."

However, he said, the US insisted that a treaty banning landmines must cover American concerns, such as defending South Korea from communist North Korea. He said the treaty needed to

include arrangements "to allow us to meet our defence obligations in Korea". America, however, would ban anti-personnel mines in Korea when possible, he said.

The Oslo talks are continuing a process that began in Ottawa in October 1996. The Americans only agreed to join the process two weeks ago. Its stand yesterday caused considerable opposition from delegates who wanted a total ban without exceptions.

Mr Goose said: "The Americans are definitely the problem nation here. But we are confident that if it did come to a vote, the United States would be defeated." He said 33 nations spoke against the American proposal. Two with voting rights, Japan and Poland, supported it.

Mr Newsum said: "Many of the delegations are very concerned that a Korean provision would open the door to other geographical exemptions." But he said this would not happen, since Korea "is

completely unique". He denied claims that the US wanted to exempt from the treaty some "smart mines", which self-destruct or disarm themselves after a set time.

Mr Goose claimed the US was trying to have some types of mines reclassified, so that they would not fall under a ban on anti-personnel mines.

Although the initiative for the so-called Ottawa process was started by the Canadian Government, the present draft has been drawn up by the Austrian delegation. Any changes have to be approved by two-thirds of states with voting rights.

The most prominent campaigner for such a ban was Diana, the Princess of Wales. Delegates held a one-minute silence in her memory on the first day of the conference.

Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations, is scheduled to present his views to delegates today.

Letters, page 19



Royalist soldiers carry a machine gun and a rocket launcher as they head towards the front line in the northwestern border town of O'Smach, Cambodia yesterday. Government forces have been trying for several weeks to take the area from forces loyal to Prince Norodom

Hun Sen rejects peace talks

Ranariddh and sporadic shelling has been reported. Hun Sen, the Cambodian leader, has ruled out talks with Prince Ranariddh, the Co-Prime Minister he overthrew in July,

saying he had to face trial for his alleged crimes. Mr Hun, responding to a call from King Norodom Sihanouk for peace talks, said the factional fighting would cease when

royalist forces gave up and returned to the government side. He said they would not be charged with any crimes. The king, who has just returned from Beijing where he has been treated for several ailments since February, has offered to act as a mediator. (Reuters)



The Jerusalem Post's view of Madeleine Albright's mission to the Middle East, which starts next week

Israel starts to lift blockade of West Bank

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL began yesterday a gradual lifting of the blockade imposed on the West Bank and Gaza Strip more than a month ago in reaction to the double suicide bombing in a Jerusalem market that claimed 17 lives and threatened the peace process.

The gesture came hours before a delegation from Binyamin Netanyahu's Government was due to leave Tel Aviv for Washington to prepare for next week's crucial first visit to the Middle East by Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State. A Palestinian team will fly to the US capital later this week.

As the first of the 4,000 Palestinian workers given permits began to make their way back to work in Israel, officials in Jerusalem denied speculation that the move was linked to Ms Albright's visit. They said that the limited lifting of the closure that has kept about 80,000 Palestinians from their jobs was guided by security considerations and concern that worsening economic hardship was increasing support among Palestinians for violence against Israel.

Israeli security sources said that "hot information" that further attacks against Jewish civilian targets were expected had been received as a result of questioning of Islamic terrorist suspects. Crowded areas such as Jerusalem's main shopping mall are considered likely targets.

"It is not true that we are lifting the closure," Mr Netanyahu told Israel Radio. "We are easing it gradually to the limit set by our security assessments, which are examined daily."

Before the closure imposed after the July 30 bombing, more than 50,000 Palestinian workers were allowed into the Jewish state every day, mostly for building jobs and other

manual work. At least 30,000 more worked in Israel illegally, avoiding checkpoints to get to jobs of a type that are scarce in the newly autonomous Palestinian areas.

During the month of the closure, the loss of income by workers combined with the continuing Israeli freeze of tax and customs transfers to Yasser Arafat's corruption-riddled Palestinian Authority have crippled the Palestinian economy. Last week the World Bank estimated that losses could reach \$3.7 million a day.

Early yesterday, as the first group of workers from the impoverished and overcrowded Gaza Strip lined up for security checks at the Erez crossing point into Israel, one of those waiting said that he found it difficult to feed his wife and six children. Salem Hussein, 47, speaking of the potentially explosive situation in Gaza, a stronghold of Islamic militants, said: "The people's patience is over. If Netanyahu continues this policy against us, everything will explode."

Rawhi Nasr, 42, a building worker who has ten children, said as he prepared to cross: "We have no work in Gaza, no jobs. This is a good step in that we can get some bread to feed our families, but we must hope that others will be able to work also."

Further easing of the restrictions on Palestinians crossing into Israel are expected before the arrival of Ms Albright in the region next Wednesday.

Peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians were suspended in March when Mr Netanyahu's Government started building a Jewish settlement at Har Homa in east Jerusalem, territory annexed by Israel after its capture from Jordan in 1967.

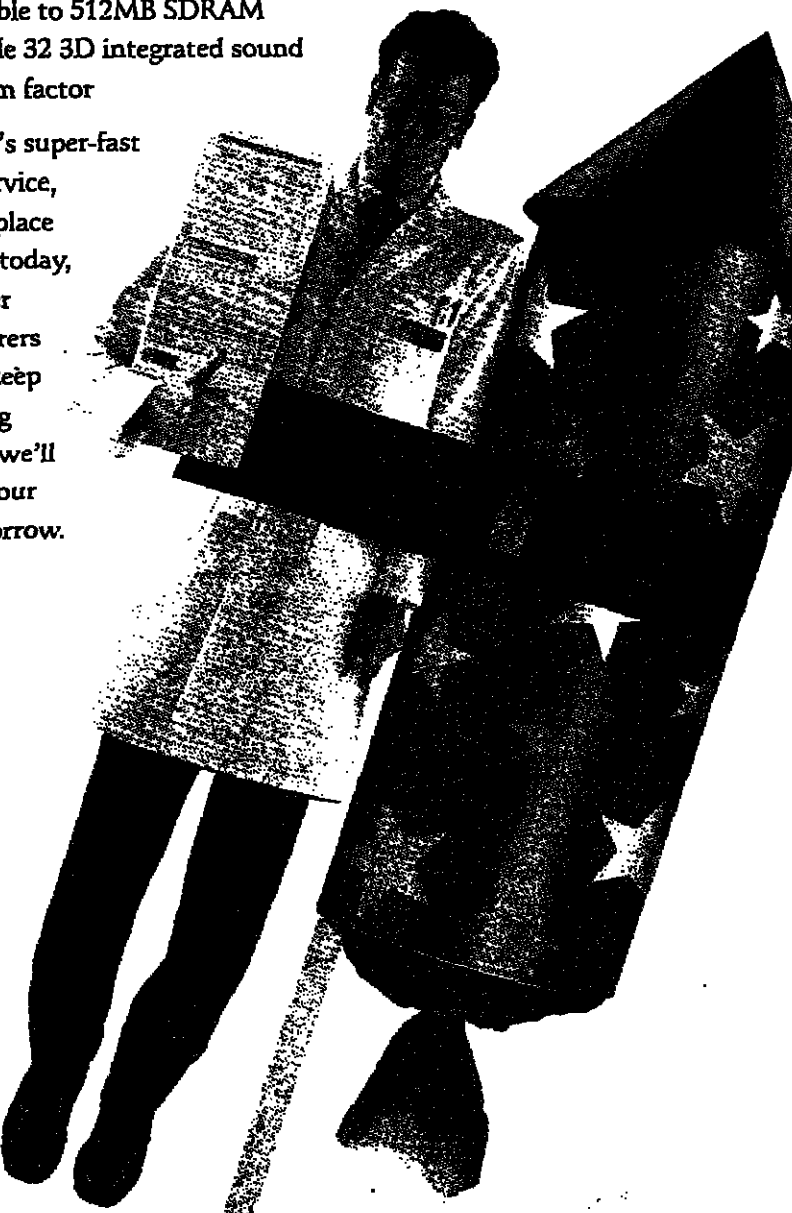
Leading article, page 19

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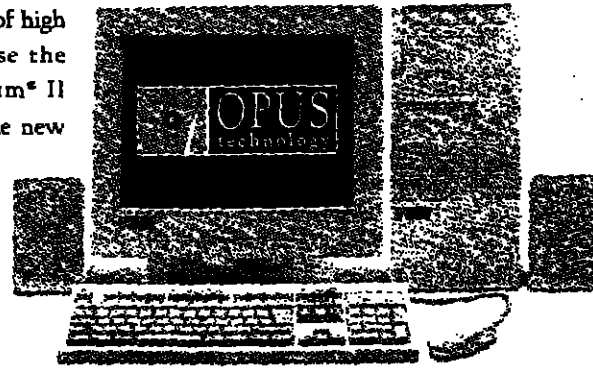


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Press cynicism + Bleak images + Tabloid editors + Coining a phrase

Nothing but praise for Diana

IT IS hard to imagine a greater outpouring of public emotion than the one we have witnessed over the past few days. But journalists are a cynical bunch: we look askance at the things most people go dewy-eyed over; if we see a bubble, we like to burst it. But I haven't read — or written — the expected cynical asides or witnessed the usual brittle world-weariness or got any measure of our archly professional distance. We, no less than those who line the paths leading to Kensington and St James's Palace, have been anxious to pay tearful tribute.

I can see how this must stick in some people's craw. Those who tormented Diana, Princess of Wales, have been falling over themselves to protest their grief. We, who have criticised in the past, have only praise to offer now. Yes, I know it looks like hypocrisy — so alike, some could say, as to be indistinguishable — but I don't think that's what it is. I think it is genuine feeling. For all that we are cynics, the news of the Princess's death has punctured our smug certainties and left us open to an unexpected wave of raw emotion. If you, the reading public, are surprised by our reaction, then so are we. Journalists are not used to feeling this way — for real.

that is. Counterfeit emotion, the usual syrupy sentimentality, is the currency of certain areas of the news media, but this is different.

I don't say that we don't want to ask some awkward questions or that we wish to take on the full-time role of hagiographers, but there is a way in which it is appropriate to say only positive things now.

When the Princess was alive, it seemed legitimate to respond honestly to her behaviour. For example, after she did the probably regretted *Panorama* interview, it would have been strange had commentators felt barred from making their criticisms. There was, to some extent, a dialogue. Now there can be none.

Everyone makes mistakes. We all have our faults. In normal everyday life we might from time to time castigate ourselves for our shortcomings or get irritated by our friends for theirs. But

in the event of our death, or the death of someone we knew, we would naturally not pretend that those faults or mistakes never existed (after all, one mourns a whole person, not just his or her better qualities) but we would see how immaterial they were. Momentarily, we would forget trivial differences, insignificant annoyances, because the soberness of the occasion, the blank immutability of death, the pain of its irrevocability stuns us.

An event like this dwarfs everything. It is often said that we should live with this perspective always, that every time we speak to, or of, someone it should be as if it's the last. I don't believe that. I don't think it would be real life. But we would be strange people indeed if we didn't now feel humbled, certainly subdued, by what has happened.

Perhaps some part of the journalistic frenzy of mourning is due to remorse. Not that we all need necessarily to feel guilty for ever having criticised or caused pain, but there is a way in which the Princess's great fame led many to assume that somehow she wasn't just a person, with the same frailties as the rest of us. Now her death is, very literally, evidence that she was, after all, a mere mortal.

Nigella Lawson



An unforgettable picture of isolation

IT MAY be that we'd rather the picture had never been taken, it may be that we'd prefer never to have seen it, but we have and we can't now wipe out the image. I don't think I've seen anything more heartbreaking than that photograph of the Prince of Wales and those poor boys sitting in the back of the car on the way to church, isolated, not one of them holding another. I know that not everyone wants to show affection in public, that many people find it distasteful. I know that the photograph does not necessarily reflect how things are in private. But the image was so cold, the reality it evoked so bleak. It seemed to conjure up everything the boys had lost.

Reports are that it was the Queen who insisted they all go to church as normal, that the show must go on. To me it feels obscene to be telling children whose mother has just died to be brave, to soldier on. What children need in such circumstances is comfort. I heard the royal biographer

Sarah Bradford on the radio, also expressing the hope that the children wouldn't be told to be brave, and that the Queen would take them on jolly outings when reeling from the shock of a mother's death? Where do people get this sort of stuff from? You can't bully people out of suffering or jolly them out of it, either.

Too many people insist on the power and good of memories, as they try to convince the grieving that the person who has died will live on in them. But that comes later: years, decades later. What one wants is the real person, to

hug, to hold, to smell, to feel. That has to be mourned.

Having a parent die is always painful, but now, in the age of the broken home, it is much harder. In the old set-up the children could at least grieve with the parent who remained. But after divorce, however well the surviving parent behaves, the children feel that the parent they do have didn't love the parent they no longer have: naturally they are going to feel isolated in their grief, and confused by the anger they must feel to the parent who must now take all the blame alone.

In this case, it is even more

acute. Diana made it clear that she felt her husband's family and friends to have been hostile to her. She blamed them. How can her sons now not feel anguished on her behalf? They will need a great deal of help if they are to be prevented from feeling that they should carry on her battles for her.

But there it is, from next week they will be at their separate boarding schools, trying to get through as best they can on their own. I agree with Libby Purves that they need us to keep out of it as they do so. But for now, one cannot help but offer up sympathy and express huge sadness.

Surprise defence

ONE shouldn't be surprised at any defence made by paparazzi-funding tabloid editors, but to say that the fact that there is an obvious public appetite for their pictures for the children whose mother has just died is to be brave, to soldier on. What children need in such circumstances is comfort. I heard the royal biographer

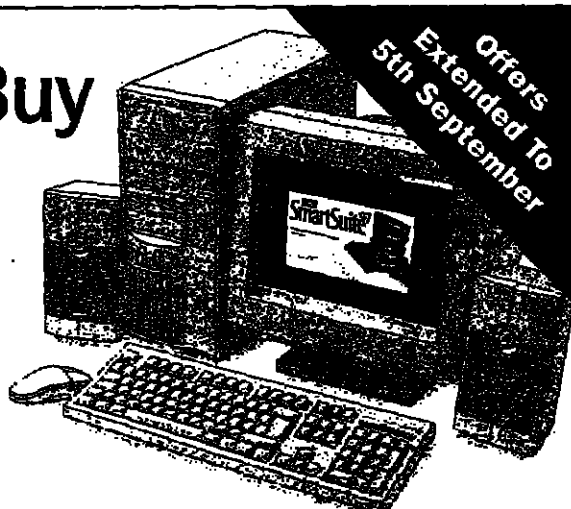
Ministerial phrase

THERE has been some debate about the origin of Tony Blair's epithet, "the People's Princess". Knowing whisperers ascribe the phrase to his press secretary, Alastair Campbell. Now I know Mr Campbell was a very effective tabloid journalist in an earlier life, which might lend credence to the attribution. But it is not so. The coinage is not even new; it was minted ten years ago — by Julie Burchill.

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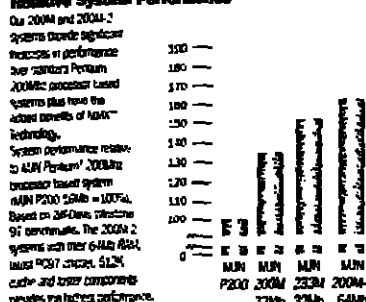
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Surely the most fitting memorial we could pay to a most remarkable woman.

Kohl's doom is good news for the euro

EMU will survive its champion's defeat, says Anatole Kaletsky

With every week that goes by, Helmut Kohl, the towering colossus of European politics, looks more like a lame duck. The German Chancellor's waning power has enormous implications for the future of Europe, but they may not be quite as they appear. Facing likely defeat in next autumn's general election, Herr Kohl is on the defensive even within his own right-of-centre coalition, especially on the question of economic and monetary union. This has led some Eurosceptics (myself included) to hope that the EMU project might be fatally weakened by Herr Kohl's waning power. The truth, however, may be exactly the other way round.

Europe may again become a taboo issue for German Social Democrats

The era of Herr Kohl's unquestioned dominance over German politics is clearly ending. The Chancellor still struts and frets his hour upon the stage of European history, but even his acolytes sense that his voice may soon be heard no more. Hence the sudden collapse of discipline in his coalition. There could, however, be one immense consolation for Herr Kohl. The more it becomes clear that he has finally lost the support of the German people, the better his chances of success in his last historic mission: to create a monetary union in Europe and abolish the mark.

This statement may seem utterly perverse. Herr Kohl, after all, has been the greatest champion of EMU. Without his total domination of German politics, this unpopular project would never have stood a chance. At first sight it seemed, therefore, that his loss of power would grievously damage the prospects for EMU. When the bungled attempt to raid the Bundesbank's gold reserves set the final seal on Herr Kohl's electoral prospects, the chances of the single currency going ahead seemed much diminished, and I said as much in these columns. I now think this analysis was wrong.

When Herr Kohl was merely weak, but not yet fatally wounded, the German opposition parties had a strong incentive to use the currency issue against him in the hope of delivering the mortal blow. The Social Democrats seemed likely to select Gerhard Schröder, one of Germany's few articulate Eurosceptics, as their candidate for Chancellor despite the fact that his pro-market, Blairite doctrines were deeply unpopular with party activists.

But now that the Chancellor seems to stand almost no chance of re-election, the Opposition — whose natural instincts are even more Euro-federalist than those of the Christian Democrats — no longer needs to play the currency card. The Social Democrat activists may not even feel the need to hold their noses and vote for Herr Schröder, but instead for the party's present pro-EMU traditionalist chairman, Oskar Lafontaine. Herr Kohl's own Bavarian coalition partners may still fulminate against his plot to give up the mark, but outside the beer-halls of Mu-

nich, Europe could again become a taboo issue for all but the nationalist Right.

The chances that Europe will again be sidelined in the forthcoming German elections are further increased by recent economic developments. The German economy is now in the early stages of a cyclical recovery, prompted largely by the drastic devaluation of the mark. But the long-term outlook remains bleak. Germany's problems of over-regulation, inflexible labour practices and high costs are even more intractable than the rest of Europe's. In the eastern Länder, it is saddled with a regional and fiscal problem of nightmare proportions. In western Germany, labour costs are far higher than in any other country in the world, with the possible exception of Switzerland. French costs, by contrast, are now scarcely higher than in Britain and America, even when taxes and social charges are taken into account.

Germany's traditional advantages — high productivity and low inflation — no longer compensate for her uncompetitive cost structure. Inflation around the world has now fallen to German levels or below. An authoritative study of productivity in car plants across Europe, published last week by the Economist Intelligence Unit, showed Nissan's plant in Sunderland overtaking the Opel factory in Eisenach.

Volkswagen's flagship plant in Wolfsburg had productivity 60 per cent below Nissan's and 40 per cent lower than a Seat plant in Spain which VW owns and runs. This points to a danger for Germany even in the recent export revival. Many of these exports are sales of machinery to foreign subsidiaries of German companies, urgently relocating their factories in eastern and southern Europe to escape Germany's uncompetitive costs. Under these circumstances the only way for Germany to make its workers competitive again in world markets is to continue devaluing the mark.

Though Bundesbank officials may boast of their unshakable commitment to a hard currency, the businessmen and trade union leaders who dominate the main political parties' economic thinking want to enjoy the benefits of a falling currency. They will veto any action that could threaten their industries with renewed hardening of the mark. This fear of a strong currency in the business community and the unions makes it impossible for any "responsible" German politician to demand that EMU be abandoned or even delayed.

The upshot is that Herr Kohl is now free to fulfil his ambition of taking Germany into EMU on almost any terms — and nobody in a position of power in Germany is prepared to try to stop him. Perhaps, after all, he will enjoy his last hearty laugh, even as he feels the reins of power slipping from his grasp.

Alan Coren's column will return next Wednesday.

Calling off this week's referendum campaign was inevitable but disastrous, says Magnus Linklater

Are a hundred hours enough in which to determine the fate of a nation? The decision to abandon all public debate on the Scottish referendum until after Diana's funeral means there will now be just four days to revive a campaign which was lacklustre at best when it came to an abrupt and tragic end last Saturday night. To restart it in the aftermath of an emotional funeral, then hope that it will galvanise and inform the electorate by Thursday of next week, is to expect a miracle.

The most depressing outcome would be a low turnout — the worst result for both sides. We have been told to expect "frantic" activity in the time available, but is this really the best atmosphere in which to conduct such a vital and complex debate? There is still widespread ignorance about the proposals on offer — one recent survey showed alarming gaps in the public's knowledge of the basic issues, with a substantial number apparently convinced that the vote has already taken place. At the very least, democracy requires a well-informed electorate.

The sensible thing would have been to postpone the referendum, but that option was rejected early on by the Scottish Office, for reasons which I find unconvincing. The White Paper, it is said, has been around since July 24, therefore most people have had a chance to get to grips with

Scotland, devolution and the Diana factor

its content. A promise was made to hold the referendum in the autumn, and that undertaking must be honoured. And to postpone it would require the reconvening of both Houses, since the date was set down by Act of Parliament, and new primary legislation would be needed to change it. But that could have been done. The Clerk of the House of Commons was standing by this week, and his estimate was that if a swift decision had been taken, Parliament could have been reconvened by Wednesday or Thursday. No great quorum of members is required to do it, and the whole proceedings could have been completed in a day.

The overriding consideration must surely be to convey the implications of this constitutional change — the biggest restructuring of the United Kingdom since 1707 — to the Scottish electorate, and to ensure that they understand the potential drawbacks as well as the benefits. That task has

been barely half-achieved. Leaflets and brochures — videos even — can never take the place of a full-scale and detailed campaign, and that campaign has been broken-backed.

Diana's death could not have struck at a more delicate stage. The Yes camp was just beginning to recover from a dismal start in which it had simply lost the first ten days. Dogged by allegations about smears and vote-rigging in Labour's Paisley heartland, it had failed to elevate its message above the level of the press release, and the front pages of the Scottish newspapers had seemed relentlessly to convey the message that this was the shape of politics to come. Although Paisley, with all its damaging implications, began to recede as an issue at the point when Tommy Graham, the MP at the centre of the allegations, announced that he intended to stay silent until after the referendum, the Yes campaign received a further blow when

the financial voice of Scotland made itself heard. Sir Bruce Patullo, the Governor of the Bank of Scotland, announced that Labour's tax proposals would drive business away and threaten the country's economic prosperity. Scottish businessmen have long been suspicious of, if not hostile towards, the notion of a Scottish Parliament, but this was by far the sternest warning they had issued.

Again Labour found itself on the back foot. The tax question is a difficult one for the party to handle, and ministers have tended to skirt around it gingerly, pointing out that its impact will be only marginal, rather than turning it into a positive issue and hailing the benefits it might bring to public services in Scotland. But at least Sir Bruce's attack had focused the debate on the real issues, and by last Saturday the argument had begun to swing around — just as news broke of the tragic events in Paris. The decision to call off the

campaign was inevitable, although whether it really had to be abandoned for all of this week is debatable. What has now put the wind up the Yes campaign is evidence that support is slipping away on the tax question. An opinion poll in yesterday's *Herald* suggested that the combined No and Don't Know vote has now overtaken the Yes vote.

A mountain, therefore, remains to be climbed from Sunday onwards. There is, however, a gleam of hope for the Yes campaign, and oddly, that lies in the personality of the late Princess. Diana enjoyed great popularity in Scotland, as movingly demonstrated by the blanket of flowers in Glasgow's George Square and on the gates of Holyroodhouse. Her disaffection with the Royal Family was seen as a gesture of independence which won warm approval in Scottish hearts. Scotland is not a republican nation but it does tend to equate the monarchy with the Establishment — that is, the Union. A wave of sympathy for the dead Princess could well translate into a feeling that the referendum offers Scotland its opportunity to move away from the iron grip of an institution which has outlived its purpose.

That may be just a straw in the wind, but those who favour a convincing vote for devolution in Scotland on September 11 now need all the help they can get.

Why do the young mourn her?

Despite the media's nationalisation of grief, Diana meant most to her own unhappy generation

How to mourn a princess? I gazed at the newspapers piled on my desk this week and wondered how much more I could take: the same pictures for the umpteenth time; the same stories told; the same clips ceaselessly on radio and television. Was a body so exploited in life now to be exploited in death like that of a medieval saint? The wax effigies at Stuart funerals or the extravagant rituals of the Victorians descended into bathos. How quickly does public mourning cease to be the collective expression of private emotion, and become mere showbusiness?

Throughout Sunday the BBC cleared all but one of its radio and television channels for what amounted to a day-long obituary on Diana, Princess of Wales. I am told that nobody in the history of broadcasting had hitherto merited this accolade. At the time and for a while, I thought this censorship appropriate. When the famous die young we are shocked as well as saddened. Some dislocation of our lives is respectful. Thus events were cancelled, Government meetings stopped, newspapers turned into magazines.

Many to whom I have spoken, and thousands who telephoned the BBC, found the response excessive. They felt they were being corralled by the media into a certain sort of grief. Many were distressed to be denied music for much of the day on Radio 3, music which most people find consoling and which Classic FM did offer. Those who control the conduits of state sadness can easily become heady on the project. They nationalise grief and make it totalitarian. In doing so they risk diluting it.

Yet the public reaction to Diana's death now being shown on the streets of London is extraordinary. I noticed that the crowds outside Buckingham and St James's Palaces yesterday were mostly of young people. These were not queues of pious, middle-aged royalists. Those most moved by her death appear to be partly those whose causes she befriended. Others form a wider, indeed worldwide, constituency, summed up by an East London girl who said simply, "She was always trying to get across to people like us." Diana managed to break through the carapace of fame. A rare talent in a public figure, she



Outside Buckingham Palace, a man prays: the Princess spoke for the emotionally dispossessed

could both give sympathy and receive it in return. Only in her death are we made aware of this.

The key to the reaction we have witnessed this week lies not in her patronage of particular causes. Their beneficiaries will rightly testify to her generosity. But such patronage by the rich and famous is easily bestowed and, as some charities found last year, easily withdrawn. Diana's appeal lay — and clearly still lies — in the role model that her brief life offered to a certain sort of young person. It is this appeal that makes the scale and form of her commemoration so hard to judge.

When she emerged from late puberty and married the Prince of Wales, she was a cardboard cutout princess. The early Diana was adored by the conventional and by a small circle of West London society. There was glamour but no heart-warming personality. The bond with a new public was forged from the wreckage of her marriage. It was the antithesis of the image projected by royal publicists. Diana was suddenly transformed into the paradigm unhappy woman of today. Her illnesses, her turbulent emotions, her indecencies, her fascination with publicity, fame, health and shopping struck a chord with people from all walks of life — men as well as women. She

won no sympathy as the object of every girl's fantasy. She won it by acting out every girl's worry. Here was the most beautiful and successful person, allegedly in the whole world, crippled by male cruelty and rendered as vulnerable as the ugliest.

The more reckless Diana became with her happiness, the more she acquired the aura of patron saint. She tore at her scar tissue. She bared her

want a hug".

Even those who found Diana an ambiguous personality recognised her ability to project across the barrier that has long surrounded British public figures. She seemed (ironically for a Spencer) not of the Establishment. When her marriage ended, I think many "royalists" felt she had crossed a pale and was gone. To them she was a spoilt rich girl who had broken the rules. She became a constitutional outcast.

Yet Diana contrived to parade her emotional turmoil — in *Panorama* interviews and on yachts moored off St Tropez — without ever losing her dignity. These were not regal performances. They were the self-exposure of a modern woman with panache and a unique access to publicity. For the daughter an earl, the wife of a prince and the lover of a playboy, this was no mean achievement. Royal charities normally come to order. Diana's charity was the sorority of the emotionally dispossessed.

A book out later this month by the psychologist Oliver James, *Britain on the Couch* (Century), analyses precisely the syndrome of which this woman was so potent an icon. "Why are we unhappy than we were in the 1950s?" he asks, "despite being richer?" Surveys now show clinical depression as ten times higher

among people born after 1945 than among those born before 1944. A generation that is the most comfortable in history is also the most depressed. Women under 35 are especially at risk. Modern life, says James, seems less and less able to meet our expectations. "It makes us feel like losers," he writes, "even if we are winners."

On this evidence, the new anguish of middle-class Britain (and Europe and America) is a realisation that conventional "success" is worse than being no road to happiness. It can so depress the serotonin levels in the brain as to be a direct path to misery. As James ranges from one case history to another, we are left with a bleak conclusion. The 1960s were right. The fragmenting of communities, the pressure of free-market employment, the incentive to short-term material gratification have indeed led to loneliness and depression. The more we expect of prosperity, the less it seems able to deliver.

In reaction, millions now turn restlessly from one therapy to another, from drugs to analysis to violent exercise, even to witchcraft. Diana became patron of many of these therapies. The young seek role models not among the contented but among those before whom the world has dangled every pleasure and yet snatched it away: the much-married actress, the self-abusing rock star, the Duchess of York and the queen of them all, Diana, Princess of Wales. People seem to take comfort in watching the famous find life as hard as they do themselves. Diana was news when happy. She was bigger news when unhappy. The word used time and again by those queuing at St James's yesterday was that she represented "comfort".

How can a nation collectively mourn an icon of such personal and often conflicting emotions? The Government was right to encourage a public rather than a private funeral. Diana was surely the most public of modern Britons, to her occasional delight but final tragedy. Yet she had no part in the rituals of royalty. Her coffin surely has no place on a gun carriage or with military escort, as proposed, nor passing along such pompous avenues of nationhood as the Horse Guards, Whitehall and Parliament Square. Surely a longer and less ritualistic route could have been chosen.

But perhaps those who wish to commemorate this brief, extraordinary life will do so in the privacy of personal comparison. They will treasure what happiness they possess in reflecting on how little she enjoyed. She was Tennyson's "linnet born within the cage" that never saw the summer woods. Memory is always the best memorial.

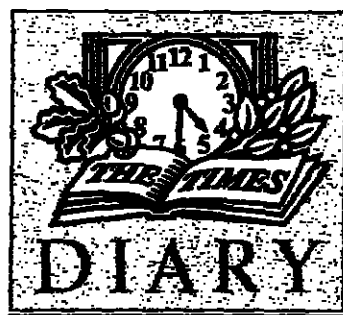
Simon Jenkins

feelings to the cameras and enraged the respectable. I can count dozens of women who cheered her on. Hers was the classic cult of psychological transference. She was a spokeswoman for those with impossible husbands, worried about their appearance, wrestling with divorce, careers, children, trying to match impossible expectations. And all the while she was searching for love and security. She could get away with a speech in which she pleaded for those who "just

State voices

DAVID DIMBLEBY and Trevor McDonald will be leading the commentary teams of the BBC and ITV respectively for the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales, on Saturday. Dimbleby has been chosen, according to BBC insiders, after long deliberations which took into account his brother Jonathan's close friendship with the Prince of Wales. Jonathan wrote the Prince's authorised biography which confirmed the nature of his relationship with Camilla Parker Bowles.

The BBC has a natural authority on occasions such as this, an advantage that McDonald and his team will be keen to usurp. John Sucher will be providing the commentary during the funeral itself, while McDonald will be co-ordinating his correspondents from the studio and commenting on the cortege as it passes through London and then out to Althorp, the Spencer family home in Northamptonshire.



Dimbleby's father, Richard Dimbleby, was the postwar voice of grand national moments including the 1953 Coronation. David's first major event was the wedding of the then Prince Andrew and Sarah Ferguson, though his anchor role at general election time has given him plenty of experience of the big occasion.

Well versed

MARTIN MCGUINNESS, Sinn Féin's chief negotiator, hard man and MP for Mid-Ulster, is about to show the world his softer side. The man recently described by one of his political foes as the IRA's "godfather of godfathers" will shortly

make his public debut as a poet. Gerry Adams, the Sinn Féin president, has chosen one of his colleagues' poems to introduce his latest book *An Irish Voice: The Quest for Peace*, which is being published next month.

Steve MacDonagh, director of Adams's publishers, Mount Eagle, says only that it is a "very atmospheric" ten-line poem in blank verse, to do with America. He was sufficiently impressed that he would now consider publishing a book of McGuinness' poems if enough exist. McGuinness' poem sounds a little more interesting than Adams's book, which consists of the weekly columns on the peace process that he has been writing for New York's *Irish Voice* newspaper since 1993.

Chaste touches

LOVE is the message being put around by George Foulkes, the Minister for International Development, currently on the volcanic island of Montserrat. Everyone he meets receives a hug, a touch, a gentle caress of the arm. "It's like he's running for office," says one observer. More remarkable is the fact that all this goodwill seems to

be pouring forth unassisted. Foulkes, who once bounced out of a party given in the House of Commons by the Scotch Whisky Association straight into the arms of the local constabulary, is keeping his alcohol intake to a minimum as he performs his official business.

Equine malaise is threatening to delay completion of filming on *The Horse Whisperer*, starring Robert Redford and Kristin Scott Thomas, which is being shot at the moment in Montana, America. The horses are currently taking a week off to recuperate, having suffered a nasty dermatological reaction to the fake blood with which they were doused to simulate injuries.

Corked

AFTER 25 years tilling the fields of their extensive French vineyards, the Ryman family, stationery barons, are packing up their vats and moving on. They are selling their estate and winery, Chateau de la Joubertie in Bergerac. In 1972, the chateau and its sprawling 52 hectares of vineyards became an obsession and money-pit for the head of the family, Nick Ryman. His efforts to cre-

ate the world's best wine fractured his family and alienated many who were close to him. Four years ago his son Hugh, a useful vintner, bought out his father and began to produce award-winning whites under the label Rystone Wines. Now Hugh has decided to dispense with the Bergerac albatross and sell up his father's beloved but ill-fated property for £2 million, forcing Nick Ryman out of the



Poet McGuinness

three-storey chateau he has called home for the past 25 years. He says the decision to move on was a purely economical, not emotional, one.

Salvaged from Marlene Dietrich's former New York pied-à-terre and soon to be auctioned at Sotheby's in Los Angeles is a letter from George Bernard Shaw instructing the actress how to address a cable to him. "Socialist London," he wrote, "be enough to ensure its safe delivery."

Minor league

EVIDENCE of the plummeting profile of the former Prime Minister, John Major, comes with the autumn edition of *Aspen Magazine*, published in Colorado. Advertising a business seminar in Denver in October, the magazine prints photographs of the six main speakers, including the American football coach Lou Holtz and the author Zig Ziglar.

Examination of the small print reveals that "also featuring" among the speakers will be the Rt Hon John Major.

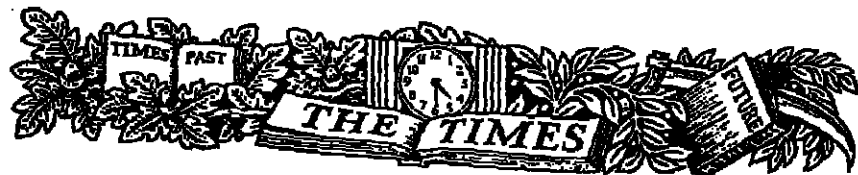
P.H.S



Chosen: Dimbleby



Chosen: McDonald



AWAITING ALBRIGHT

But only Clinton can influence the Middle East peace process

Five weeks after the suicide attack in a Jerusalem market, Israel and the Palestinian Authority continue to conduct their particular and peculiar dialogue. Tough talking on a regular basis from Benjamin Netanyahu and Yasser Arafat serves to disguise several small steps towards enhanced co-operation. Israel's decision to issue over 4,000 entry permits to Palestinian workers constitutes a timely easing of the economic measures it imposed in the immediate aftermath of the blasts.

Although he would hardly concede it, Mr Netanyahu's political gesture was doubtless influenced by the impending initial visit of Madeleine Albright to the region. Some seven months have past since the Secretary of State was confirmed in office and her absence from an area so integral to American foreign policy has been the subject of much critical comment. This alone would have prompted her presence but the renewed terrorist threat has ensured it. She would note in her defence that Dennis Ross, special co-ordinator for the peace process, has been a permanent fixture in Middle Eastern politics. He has certainly made heroic efforts but the time has come for more senior figures to take centre stage. Mrs Albright will now become a frequent participant in Israeli-Palestinian negotiations.

However, the arrival of Mrs Albright does not represent a breakthrough in itself nor does it advance the prospects of a lasting settlement. Her predecessors, James Baker and Warren Christopher in this decade, and Henry Kissinger, Cyrus Vance, and George Schultz before that, spent hundreds of trips and thousands of hours between them in the drive to advance peace in the Middle East. Such endeavours produced real progress and the outlines of the present peace process but also intense frustration. It is only the curious nature of her past absence that adds any novelty or special importance to the part Mrs Albright will play next week.

The Secretary of State brings with her a status that Mr Ross, for all his undoubted expertise, could not possibly muster. That has been recognised on all sides. It remains uncertain what it is that she intends to say. There is little purpose, at this late stage, of her conducting a set of meetings primarily to introduce herself to key people and core problems. It is widely assumed in the region that Mrs Albright will bring with her a "Clinton Plan" and a new American initiative aimed at reactivating the peace process. If she does not, it is difficult to see what will alter the present acrimonious atmosphere.

The Clinton Administration has hinted at — but never explicitly committed itself to — a shift in strategy towards immediate negotiations on a final Israeli-Palestinian agreement. This "fast-track" approach first suggested by Mr Netanyahu would bypass the original timetable outlined in the Oslo accords. It would be a risky enterprise but one that with American leadership and a convincing stance from Mr Arafat on security questions could break the current impasse. No alternative appears more attractive. If Mrs Albright were to dedicate herself to this approach no party would dissociate itself from those discussions.

Mrs Albright has the authority to move the peace process towards this new plain. She does not have the power to broker the territorial compromises essential for an ultimate outcome. President Clinton is the sole outside figure who could do so. A commitment as intense as that made by Jimmy Carter at the time of the Camp David deliberations between Israel and Egypt may be required of Mr Clinton. The President's considerable political skills have often been displayed in the American domestic arena. They have been deployed rather less frequently outside the borders of the United States. He now needs to turn them to the Middle East if he wants a permanent peace settlement there as part of his legacy.

OUT OF THE OCEAN

A symbolic shift but not a costless one

Britain, cast for so long as the dirty man of Europe, has decided to come clean. At a meeting in Brussels it plans to abandon reservations about the dumping of toxic wastes at sea, and accept new, tougher targets for radioactive discharges. By the year 2020, according to Michael Meacher, the Minister for the Environment, chemicals reaching the sea from industry and agriculture should be down to background levels, while the so-called endocrine disrupters — chemicals suspected of mimicking the behaviour of human hormones — should be close to zero. These are tough targets, to which previous governments have been reluctant to commit themselves.

Whether such high standards are strictly necessary is harder to assess. In the shallow North Sea, surrounded by developed nations who all add their share of pollution to the common pot, there is growing evidence that pollution is having an impact. The broader Atlantic Ocean shows rather fewer signs of damage. Against the benefit the seas will gain from reduced discharges must be set the risk that the wastes will pose an equal or greater hazard to human health when disposed of ashore. In the case of abandoned oil rigs, the equation is very finely balanced, and the expectation remains that some 30 or so of the bigger platforms, or those that are damaged, will indeed be dumped at sea. The fact that the UK Offshore Operators Association accepts this with apparent equanimity means that it represents less of a shift than Mr Meacher would like us to believe.

In environmental policy, it is in any case increasingly difficult to make a distinction between real and perceived risks. If the public has been convinced that pollution is

damaging the seas, and wants something done about it, then it is difficult to advance the argument that the damage is largely in the mind. The perceived pollution may not be a confirmed scientific fact, but it is a political fact and it is a government's task either to change the perception or to act upon it. Mrs Thatcher tried in vain to change perceptions, and Mr Major followed suit, but in a half-hearted way that stood little chance of success. Mr Meacher is making himself clear: if the rest of Northern Europe thinks there is a problem, Britain will no longer be the odd man out by denying it.

In reality, Britain has never been the greatest sinner, even if the rhetoric made it all too easy to cast it in that role. Nuclear discharges apart, our contribution to pollution of the sea, proportionate to GNP, is on a par with others. We have impressive monitoring systems and a reliable enforcement regime in place to ensure that standards do not slip. Not the least of the advantages of Mr Meacher's stand is that it will no longer be possible for other countries, notably Germany, to escape their obligations to pointing the finger at "dirty Britain".

Can the targets be achieved? There must be serious doubt, unless there is a revolution in farming, that agricultural run-off can truly be reduced to background levels. As for endocrine disrupters, the science remains as yet too sketchy even to be sure that any damage is being done, never mind identify the true culprits. Literally hundreds of chemicals could be involved, or none at all. Precipitate action here could easily cost billions of pounds, with no certainty of any benefit. The Government may find that fact no easier than disposing of toxic waste.

ROCKET MAN

Amateur efforts assist space exploration

Rocketry was not always the multi-million enterprise that it has become. When Robert Goddard launched the first liquid-powered rocket in 1926 he did so with minimal support, and was derided for his pains by those few who did not entirely ignore him. True, his rocket rose a mere 40 feet in the air before falling back to earth, but Goddard had proved the principle that later took men to the Moon. By then, rocketry was out of the hands of the amateurs and into those of huge organisations, with giant contractors feeding off them. Only the state, and then only the superstate, could apparently afford the entry fee for travel into space.

Today rocketry is being reinvented by groups of enthusiastic amateurs in Britain, the US, and around the world. One of them, Steve Bennett, was last month forced to call off the launch of his latest rocket when high winds at the Otterburn Range in Northumberland made a launch too hazardous. Now he plans to travel to Kiruna, in northern Sweden, to a rocket range from which many small sounding rockets have been launched. Given fairer winds within the Arctic Circle, Mr Bennett hopes that his new rocket, *Lexx*, will climb 15 miles into the atmosphere.

He is not alone. The Aspire rocket has been developed by a group of young British engineers frustrated by the lack of ambition in official British space efforts. In the US there is a small army of rocket enthusiasts who like nothing better than to get together and swap yarns while watching each other

light the blue touch paper. Common to these efforts is the belief that space need not be a hugely expensive enterprise, open only to the military or to governments. Mr Bennett's latest rocket, ten times more powerful than his last, has cost £50,000. It is perfectly possible to imagine the first amateur satellite reaching space within the next five years, from one of these groups, at a cost of a few million pounds. Such small sums would barely pay NASA's photocopying bills.

Even if the amateur rocketeers ultimately fall short, their efforts have helped inspire a rethink among the big battalions. The Mars Pathfinder mission, the first to benefit from a new NASA policy of quick, cheap missions following rapidly on one another, has been a huge success. Private companies in the US are developing launchers, while another team has picked up where Star Wars left off, and turned expertise from that programme to advantage by launching a cheap satellite, Clementine, into Moon orbit. In Europe, ESA is heading in the same direction, with its own mission, Mars Express, which would also be completed at greater speed and at a smaller cost than previous efforts.

So while it may be tempting to laugh at Mr Bennett, it would be a mistake. His efforts and those of other enthusiasts could help popularise anew the exploration of space, as well as making it affordable. They deserve support — though not too much, lest they become as bloated as the space bureaucracies they are attempting to subvert.

Royal Family at Sunday worship

From Lady Osborne

Sir, I was struck by a link between three of your key articles today. Dr Thomas Stuttaford tells us of the need to express our feelings: William Rees-Mogg discusses the ability of Diana, Princess of Wales, to communicate and her mission to humanise and modernise the Royal Family; and then you describe the morning service at Craithie...

On a day when the entire nation came to a halt and talked of nothing else, someone took the decision that the visiting minister should carry on with his prepared sermon, illustrated with Billy Connolly jokes and including thoughts on the unsettling experience of moving house (report, "No mention of accident as Prince John Church service").

This is why all who care about Britain and the monarchy worshipped Diana and needed her.

Yours sincerely,
FELICITY OSBORNE,
67 Lansdowne Road, W11,
September 1.

From Mrs Gaynor Sandell

Sir, Did the two young Princes really sit through a sermon about "moving house" punctuated with "Billy Connolly jokes" just a few hours after they had been told their mother had been killed?

And did the Queen really smile and wave to the crowd as she was driven to church?

Yours faithfully,
GAYNOR SANDELL,
Summerfields, Stock Pond Lane,
Bromsgrove, Worcestershire,
September 2.

From Mr Rupen Mullick

Sir, The Royal Family and the Establishment must take note from the depth and breadth of the late Princess's immense popularity that, in order to command respect and love from ordinary people, they must touch the hearts of their subjects in the same way as she did. The so-called stiff upper lip is a thing of the Victorian era which has little value in a modern society. It is good to show your feelings at times of such immense loss and grief.

I watched with utter disbelief as members of the Royal Family (including Princes William and Harry) went to church on Sunday morning as normal whilst the Princess's body lay in a Paris hospital. Like any other bereaved father, Mohamed Al Fayed, flew straight to Paris immediately he was informed of his son's tragic death.

I suppose that the difference in attitude which the Princess was trying to bridge and hence her separation from the Royal Family.

Yours faithfully,
R. MULICK,
4 Gregory Close,
Lower Earley, Reading, Berkshire.

From Mr A. H. Perry

Your report today states that, in spite of the appalling news, "the Royal Family went to morning service as usual". I would say that going to church was completely the right thing to do.

Yours etc,
ANTHONY PERRY,
95 St Mary Graces, E1,
September 1.

Unitarian beliefs

From the Deputy General Secretary of British Unitarians

Sir, Nineteenth-century Unitarians would certainly not have been preaching damnation in Wales, the Midlands, or any other part of Britain, as suggested in your article, "Godly nation took comfort from faith" (Victorian Britain, August 22).

Unitarians have promoted the love of God as well as the oneness of God from our earliest days. Modern expressions would also include the dignity and inherent worth of all people. In both the 19th and early 20th century Unitarians could be heard preaching abolition of the slave trade, promotion of women's rights and the use of calm reason in religion. Social causes now accepted as valid by almost everyone were championed by Unitarians (and others) in the face of furious persecution because our theology stressed the positive side of personal responsibility and community values rather than the negative view of both humanity and God.

It is Calvinism which insisted that spiritual renewal had to be preceded by emotional self-denigration, and Unitarians wanted nothing to do with the emotional manipulation common in this approach.

One part of Wales is still known as the Black Spot, named by Calvinists who made no significant headway there in the 19th century because of Unitarian influences.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN CLIFFORD,
Deputy General Secretary,
British Unitarians,
Essex Hall, 1-b Essex St, WC2,
see@unitarian.org.uk
August 28.

Letters that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Tragedy's lessons for a lasting good

From Mr Peter A. Rushforth

Sir, So much grief, and so many flowers laid in memory. But if only the money spent on flowers, which will quickly fade, had been given to a lasting charity in memory of the Princess, so much good could have been done.

Yours faithfully,
PETER A. RUSHFORTH,
36 Sutton Drive,
Cullington,
Bradford, West Yorkshire,
September 2.

From Mr Michael Donley

Sir, Those editors who point the finger of blame at the newspaper-buying public and its prurience are putting themselves in the same company as drug dealers, who similarly claim that they are simply giving their customers what they want.

We are all aware that the flesh is weak, but it is surely the job of responsible members of society — among whom editors and journalists ought to count themselves — not to play on this weakness.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL DONLEY,
72 Woodstock Road,
Wimsey, Oxfordshire,
September 1.

From Mr A. G. Gordon

Sir, Surely the *News of the World* yesterday showed the way by refusing to buy a photograph of the Princess lying in the crushed car.

If all editors followed this example and rejected every offer of intrusive photographs no change in the law would be needed and the paparazzi would have nothing to gain by pursuing or spying on their victims.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY GORDON,
55 Fentiman Road, SW8,
September 1.

From Professor Alec Eden

Sir, Mr Ian Shaw (letter, September 1) criticises the *Sunday Mirror* for publishing a "special issue" supplement containing intrusive photographs of the late Princess and Mr Fayed.

It is Mr Shaw or whoever paid for his newspaper who are the ultimate

paymasters of the paparazzi.

Yours faithfully,
ALEC EDEN,
The Thatched House,
Mead Road, Torquay, Devon,
September 1.

From Miss Clare Latimer

Sir, Forget the foxhunting ban. Having had my turn being chased by the press pack (and having luckily escaped everlasting scars), I think we should first ban human hunting.

Yours sincerely,
CLARE LATIMER
(Director), Clare's Kitchen Ltd,
41 Chalcot Road, Primrose Hill, NW1,
September 1.

From Mr Rodney J. Croft

Sir, The Princess should surely have been afforded a motorcycle escort of French policemen, not one of buzzing paparazzi.

Yours faithfully,
RODNEY J. CROFT,
127 Queens Road,
Buckhurst Hill, Essex,
September 1.

From Mr Brian Joyce

Sir, Surely this year's drink-driving campaign could not be more straightforward: one obvious photograph with one simple statement.

Yours faithfully,
B. JOYCE,
White Horse View,
Horns Lane, Broad Town, Wiltshire,
September 2.

From Mr Timothy Hudson

Sir, Dido's line in Virgil (*Aeneid* 1, 630) seems especially appropriate: *Non ignara mali misera succurre disco* ("Well used to misfortune I have learnt to give help to those in trouble").

As often, it is classical antiquity which still provides the best comment on modern life.

Yours faithfully,
TIMOTHY HUDSON,
7 Hawthorn Close,
Chichester, West Sussex,
thudson@westsussex.gov.uk
September 1.

Unique opportunity on landmines

From Ms Fiona King and others

Sir, The start of the Oslo meeting on anti-personnel mines on September 1 represents the only opportunity before the millennium for governments to finalise the Ottawa treaty to ban anti-personnel mines. This will protect future generations from the misery and destruction caused by these weapons.

On behalf of the 51 member organisations of the UK Working Group on Landmines, we are writing to express our deep concern regarding the latest US proposals, which seek to secure exceptions, those being to continue the deployment of self-destruct mines and the use of "dumb" mines in the Korean peninsula. States which desire to adhere only to limited restrictions on anti-personnel mines should not be part of the Ottawa process.

Such exceptions undermine the spirit and the purpose of the Ottawa process, which now has the support of over 100 states and the backing of glo-

bal public opinion. It would be a tragedy if governments allow a truly comprehensive treaty to be compromised for one nation. The Ottawa process provides a unique opportunity to close the chapter on anti-personnel mines. It cannot be allowed to fail.

Yours sincerely,
FIONA KING,
South Asia Programme Officer,
Save the Children,
KAMALA ACHU,
UK Director, Jaipur Limb Campaign,
CLARE CRAWFORD,
Parliamentary Liaison Officer,
Mines Advisory Group,
ANN FELTHAM,
Co-ordinator,
Campaign Against the Arms Trade,
NEIL THORNS,
Campaign Co-ordinator, Christian Aid,
The UK Working Group on Landmines,
601 Holloway Road, N19,
September 1.

Police powers

From Mr R. E. E. Edwards

Sir, One of the more disturbing features of the so-called pilot scheme operated by the Metropolitan Police and the British School of Motoring (report, August 28) is that the police feel able to act in this way against those whom they suspect of driving without "due care and attention": the option being a possible prosecution or a £120 driving-school course.

Guilt or innocence in such a case is highly subjective, comparable in many ways to the hoary catch-all of "conduct prejudicial to good order and military discipline". In the case of

a guilty verdict the sentence may seem to reflect the prejudices of a particular magistrate or bench.

It should be made clear to the police that the only powers they may exercise are to caution or to report for prosecution if, in legal opinion, the evidence suggests a strong *prima facie* case.

Whatever their merits, such schemes should be operated only through the courts as options in their powers of sentencing.

Yours faithfully,
RUPERT E. E. EDWARDS,
9 Cardinal Close,
Colchester, Essex,
September 1.

Hollywood villains

From Lady Hamilton

Sir, I am surprised that you are able to take such a relaxed attitude towards Hollywood's portrayal of the British as "villains, traitors and cowards" (leading article, August 13).

Personally, I feel somewhat less than enthusiastic at seeing my fellow countrymen vilified throughout the English-speaking world, in this age when film is the main source of information for many.

Not only are evil roles assigned to Britons, but our heroes are stolen (Robin Hood, Denis Fichtelton, and now Sir Ernest Shackleton), and history too is rewritten to our disadvantage (*Gandhi*, *Poahontas*, *Braveheart*, *In the Name of the Father*).

A recent British Airways world survey found that we were seen as "negative and aloof". While I cannot blame Hollywood for the obnoxious squiggles now decorating the tailplanes of our national airline, these films do not help our reputation abroad or our morale at home.

Yours faithfully,
ANNE HAMILTON,
Snowdenham House,
Bramley, Surrey,
August 23.

Rescue at sea

From Mr J. M. S. Ekins

Sir, Your leading article about the rescue of the *Newman* family ("Duffers afloat", August 29) only touches in its last paragraph on the aspect of lifesaving which, despite the rejoicing at the success of the operation, makes the public wince. Nobody grudges the cost, but taxpayers do not like to see the rescued victim making money from the press.

It would be sensible for governments to present to each victim an invoice for the full cost of their rescue, but to enforce it only to the extent that he makes money from selling the story.

I nearly wrote this letter when Tony Bullimore was rescued so dramatically by the Royal Australian Navy (report, January 9). Judging by the number of yachtsmen now passing in their quarter of the globe, the Australian Government would be well advised to sharpen up their invoicing procedures.

Yours faithfully,
J. M. S. EKINS
(Commander, RN, ret'd),
Old Lime House,
Easton, Winchester, Hampshire,
August 29.

Bishops' move to increase powers

From the Reverend Donald Reeves

Sir, The Churchwardens Measure, by which a bishop can remove a churchwarden (letter, August 28) is yet another device to tidy up the Church of England. A few eccentric priests, and the freehold must be abolished. One or two obstinate churchwardens, and power to remove them must be in place.

Untidiness has been one of the strengths of the Church of England. The art of leadership, whether as bishop or parish priest, is to hold the community together, but without such easy access to law.

As bishops become more powerful, it may well be at considerable cost. I have frequently detected an anti-episcopal strain within the Church and beyond. Clergy are highly ambivalent about bishops. And the perception of bishops living at ease in palaces with chauffeurs and gardeners dies hard. The fact that they all live modestly, are conscientious, hard-working (and too hard-working), is neither here nor there.

Sooner or later, laity and clergy will say enough is enough and will take the law into their own hands and the bishops will have no one to blame but themselves for the trouble they have caused.

Yours faithfully,
DONALD REEVES
(Rector),
St James's Church,
197 Piccadilly, W1,
September 1.

From Mr Anthony Wethered

Sir, I was privileged to serve as a churchwarden both here and in the United States, where the Protestant Episcopal Church is a part of the Anglican Communion. It happened that in both parishes I was involved in the selection of a new incumbent, and the difference in attitude in the two cases was marked.

In the American case nominations were sought from the entire congregation, after which, by a process of visiting, interviewing and gradual elimination, we appointed an excellent rector, the bishop having given him his blessing.

Here, too, we found an excellent replacement, but only after some disagreement with the bishop, who had his own candidate and was "not pleased" (we were told) that we did not fall in with his choice.

Had the proposed new measure been in force at the time I suppose I would have been given the sack. Let us hope devoutly that Parliament throws it out: for that is certainly what it deserves.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY WETHERED,
Remnant, West Street,
Marlow, Buckinghamshire,
August 29.

Hospice care

From Ms Natalie Lynch

Sir, Simon Jenkins's compelling feature on Jeffrey Bernard (August 30) highlights the one thing we all want — to die with dignity. Hospices have said it for years: let us die as we choose, and in comfort.

In a hospice you can die with grace and be spoiled in your last days doing things your way. If you want ice-cream at midnight or a take-away you can have it. Equally, some people about to die of Aids at the Lighthouse ask for a party, and get it.

The NHS is for treatment, not for the dying. Let's increase the funding for hospices and homecare so that we can be valued, be ourselves, have a drink or whatever indulgence or consolation we want. Then maybe it will be the norm to have joy and peacefulness at the end.

Yours truly,
NATALIE LYNCH,
Cedarwood Cottage,
202 The Avenue, Kennington, Oxford,
September 1.

Business class?

From Mr Malcolm Stephens

Sir, I hope it is not too long before airlines not only offer segregated zones for smokers, but also the same kind of protection against those who spend the entire flight tip-tapping into laptop computers.

Yours faithfully,
MALCOLM STEPHENS
(Secretary-General),
International Union of Credit and Investment Insurers,
35 Old Queen Street, SW1,
September 1.

No TV

From Mr Andy Cole

Sir, The parents of the 16-year-old boy with 12 started A levels say they have no television in the house, but that they "once considered hiring one to watch Wimbledon" (report, August 22, earlier editions).

I am certain they will be deluged with offers of a loan set from people who can think of no better fortnight to be without it.

Yours faithfully,
ANDY COLE,
12 Lindum Road,
Cleethorpes, Lincolnshire,
andycole@ukonline.co.uk
August 22.

OBITUARIES

LANCE BARNARD



Lance Barnard, AO, former Deputy Prime Minister of Australia, died on August 6 aged 78. He was born in Launceston, Tasmania, on May 1, 1919.

The argument that the policies and actions of Tony Blair's Labour Government owe much to the example of the Australian Labor Party can be supported by a comparison of Blair's debut in office, with its rush of initiatives, to the first startling days of the reforming Whitlam Government in Canberra in 1972. Gough Whitlam was the dazzling, towering leader; Lance Barnard was a head shorter, unflamboyant, his loyal, quiet, hardworking and dependable deputy.

That first Labor Government for 23 years brought in a string of instant reforms, beginning with the promised but controversial freeing of conscientious objectors imprisoned during the Vietnam War. Within three days of the election on December 2, Whitlam and Barnard, along with the Governor-General, had formed Australia's smallest executive council, with Whitlam explaining that the impetus must be maintained but that no

Cabinet could be formed until almost the Christmas-New Year political recess. Whitlam took 13 portfolios. Barnard took the remaining 14, but drew only the salary he had been paid as deputy leader of the Opposition.

In a fortnight from December 5, Whitlam and Barnard — "the duo-virate", as bitter Opposition Members dubbed them — promised independence to Papua New Guinea, gave diplomatic recognition to Communist China, ended National Service, promised to ratify international conventions on nuclear arms and racism, barred visits by racially selected sports teams, and formally abandoned the White Australia policy. Aborigines were promised special schools, and the leasing of mineral lands on Northern Territory aboriginal reserves was blocked. The Arbitration Commission was empowered to reopen the claim for equal pay for women; British titles were abolished; sales tax on contraceptives was lifted; spending on education, the arts and culture was to be massively increased.

The nation was startled, but mostly impressed. The academic Russell Ward commented in his *History of Australia 1901-*

1975: "It is safe to say that few Australians had previously realised how much governments can do by regulation without parliamentary discussion, and that it was thoroughly characteristic of the new Prime Minister thus to act decisively and immediately in the centre of the stage."

The Labor Party caucus met on December 13 to elect the 27-strong Ministry; Barnard was named Minister for Defence and continued as Deputy Prime Minister until 1974. He oversaw the biggest reorganisation of Australian defence in peacetime, and renegotiated the agreement on American bases, gaining for Australia more control of how they were operated. Labor was returned to power on May 18, 1974, but the party was torn by conflicting policies and personalities in those changing years, and Barnard saw Whitlam fail to support him when he was successfully challenged for the Deputy Leader's post by the new star of the Left, Dr Jim Cairns.

A hearing problem was becoming more of a handicap to Barnard in his work, and Canberra's unhelpful climate blighted his general health. He agreed with Whitlam that it was time for him to go.

Whitlam sounded out his interest in

becoming Governor-General, but Barnard felt the post would be largely ceremonial and unchallenging. Sir John Kerr's legal background made him first choice; he accepted the offer, and a year later the Governor-General's role and power were to shake Australia to the core, when Kerr sacked his old Labor colleague Whitlam.

Barnard later mused: "If I had accepted, the course of history would have been completely changed. I would have taken the advice of Gough Whitlam" (to confirm Labor in office, leaving it to face the Opposition-dominated Senate, whose refusal to pass finance legislation led to the controversy and the dismissal).

Barnard left politics to become Ambassador to Norway, Finland and Sweden, a post he held until 1978. His House of Representatives seat was lost to the Liberals with a big swing, adding to the Government's sense of decline.

Barnard three times rejected knighthoods offered by the Fraser Liberal Government — a display of principle perhaps not properly appreciated by former colleagues, who felt that he had looked after his own interests by getting out of politics as Labor's fortunes ebbed.

He did, however, accept appointment as an Officer of Australia's home-grown order, the Order of Australia, in 1979.

Barnard was director of the Office of Australian War Graves from 1981 to 1983, and returned to local government in 1986 as an Alderman of the City of Launceston.

Educated at Launceston Technical College, Lance Herbert Barnard joined the Australian Imperial Forces in 1940 and saw service in the Western Desert as an artillery officer with the 2/8th Field Regiment of the 9th Division, twice being wounded at El Alamein, and sustaining permanent hearing damage.

He trained as a carpenter and became a trades teacher before winning the federal seat of Bass from the Liberals in 1954. His father, Claude, had held the seat from 1934 to 1949 and had served as Repatriation Minister.

Unpretentious in private life, Lance Barnard enjoyed swimming and bowls. He was ill last year, but had made a recovery. He died suddenly in Melbourne when seeking attention for a heart condition. He was twice married, and leaves a wife, Jill, one son and two daughters, a third daughter having predeceased him.

SOTIRIA BELLOU

Sotiria Bellou, Greek folksinger, died on August 27 aged 75. She was born on August 29, 1921.

HALF A century ago, when Sotiria Bellou broke into the world of Greece's *rembetika*, the solemn yet cynical bouzouki music of hashish dens and turbulent personal relationships, she defied classification. Until then, those women allowed to sing in this male preserve had played the role of high-pitched, dollish and rather disreputable stage fixtures, with the air and attire of pre-war gun-molls. Bellou abolished that stereotype and became for Greece what Edith Piaf was to France, a leader of the counterculture whose unpretentiousness brought out the essence of a national style.

Born into a prosperous provincial family on the island of Euboea, Bellou horrified her relations by her early affinity with the music that was emerging from the nether regions of the port of Piraeus. The city's population had recently been swollen by floods of refugees from Asia Minor, who brought with them the tinkling, rough-hewn, Levantine ditties dominated by the plaintive, strangled bouzouki, which were later to blossom into a national industry. But between the wars, the *rembetes*, a mafia-like subculture of working-class men with a distinctive music, were anathema to decent middle-

class and provincial Greeks. In an attempt to steer Sotiria away from her unhealthy interest in this music, the family married her off at 18. The marriage was brief and disastrous, and at 19 years old, guitar in hand, she made her way to Athens, determined on a singing career. It was not the best of times, since the Nazis



had just occupied the country and Athenians were dying of starvation in the streets. Bellou responded by becoming politically active, joining the ranks of the Communist-led resistance movement, which later fought the British as they helped the Greek Government to fight off an attempted Communist coup.

Through the 1950s and 1960s her fame grew. A dedicated coterie regularly packed the Hara, her

nightclub in the working-class district of Kalsariani. Shunning any kind of flamboyance, she became consciously masculine, favouring men's jackets and cheap pullovers and trousers for her appearances. She was careless with the money she made, spending a great deal on gambling and — the gossip said — female companions. But bouzouki aficionados revered her as the *Archontissa*, the nearest thing to "Queen" that a republican vocabulary can allow.

Her versatile, merciless alto, sharp with proletarian cynicism was quite unlike anything ever heard elsewhere. When in 1956 the British colonial administration in Cyprus hanged two men for insurrection, Bellou whipped up Greek public opinion with "Life Has Two Doors", a defiant poem in commemoration of the event.

Sotiria Bellou set her face against the commercialisation of bouzouki music in the 1970s and 1980s. Her finances deteriorated, along with her health. Several years ago she was diagnosed with throat cancer after a lifetime of smoking.

In and out of hospitals, with hardly a drachma to her name, she was remembered at times by the occasional television reporter. This year the legendary voice failed completely. She died destitute and embittered by what she saw as neglect by the State and by her fellow artists, some of whom she had propelled to fame.

Peter Dews, stage and television producer, died from a heart attack on August 25 aged 67. He was born on September 26, 1929.

PETER DEWS was a talented and versatile producer who spent six successful years as artistic director of Birmingham Repertory Theatre and three in the same role at Chichester. He may be best remembered, however, for *An Age of Kings*, the innovative serialisation of Shakespeare's history plays which he made for BBC Television in 1960. It was a hugely ambitious undertaking, presenting all the histories, from *Richard II* through the *Henrys* to *Richard III*, in fortnightly episodes over a period of 30 weeks. With a cast that included Robert Hardy, Sean Connery and Eileen Atkins, it set new standards for television drama. In the process, it attracted some five million regular viewers and showed convincingly that serious programming need not preclude popular success.

Peter Dews was the son of a railway clerk. Born in Wakefield, he was educated at the Queen Elizabeth Grammar School there before going up to University College, Oxford, where, by his own admission, he did no work. He took a third in history and, on going down, spent a year as a schoolmaster in Barnsley. He might have made an effective

PETER DEWS



Peter Dews as a radio drama producer with the BBC Midlands Region in 1955

teacher, and he retained a certain schoolmasterly quality all his life, but he had wanted to be an actor from the age of four, and he soon seized the chance to start work at Bradford's Civic Playhouse, where he acted a great deal and directed Sartre's *Crime Passionnel* in 1952.

He then joined the BBC in Birmingham as a radio producer, in which capacity he directed some 300 plays in the space of only four years. When television came to the region he began to direct for it too, and in 1957 he was invited to do *Henry V* for a London BBC television series called *World Theatre*. On the strength of that production he was asked to tackle the sequence of history plays which won him a Guild of Television Producers award for the best production of 1960. The success of *An Age of Kings* owed much to the boldness with which Dews and his director Michael Hayes set about turning the texts into television, exploiting the strengths and limitations of the medium with extraordinary freedom and vigour.

Studio settings were more realistic than the stage would allow, and the plays were cleverly cut and rearranged to fit the episodic format of a gripping television series.

In 1962 Dews directed a stage version of the same sequence for the Oxford University Dramatic Society, when the undergraduate actors included Michael York. In 1963 he applied the same approach — rather less happily — to a television version of Shakespeare's Roman plays, under the title *The Spread of the Eagle*.



A scene from Dews's production of *Hadrian VII*, which transferred from Birmingham to the Mermaid in London

Leaving the BBC in 1963, he went on to enjoy a varied and flourishing career in the theatre. He directed *Twelfth Night*, *Hamlet* and *Henry V* at the Ravinia Festival in Chicago, and Brecht's *Galileo* in Edinburgh, before taking up the post of artistic director at Birmingham Repertory Theatre. He remained at Birmingham for six years, helping to subsidise the theatre himself from what he was able to earn elsewhere; several of his productions — notable among them Peter Luke's *Hadrian VII*, with Alec McCowen in the title role — transferred to

the West End and Broadway. Historical subjects were what interested Dews most, even in contemporary drama, and they brought him his greatest success. *Hadrian VII* did wonders for his reputation as a stage director, and did his finances no harm either. He followed it in 1970 with the premiere of Robert Bolt's *Vivat! Vivat Regina!* at Chichester with Eileen Atkins in the role of Elizabeth I. This, too, was later seen in the West End and on Broadway.

Broadway was also to be the final destination of another play with a royal subject,

Crown Matrimonial, an indifferent but popular West End treatment of the Abdication, with Peter Barkworth as Edward VIII.

Dews had a particular fondness for directing on the open stage at Chichester, and he worked there regularly during the decade that preceded his appointment as artistic director of the Festival Theatre for three years from 1978. Among his Chichester credits were *Antony and Cleopatra*, *Julius Caesar*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *The Importance of Being Earnest* and Christopher Fry's *A Sleep of Prisoners*, staged in Chichester Cathedral.

In the course of his career Dews also directed plays in Canada, Israel, Hong Kong and South Africa, though his services were never engaged — as they should have been — by Britain's major subsidised companies.

An ebullient, larger than life figure who never lost his strong Yorkshire accent, Dews was an amusing companion, and an inspiring, impassioned director. He was greatly liked and admired by the actors with whom he worked, not least for his willingness to step into any role that fell suddenly vacant in the course of a run. Meticulous in his regard for the text, he described himself as having a "grammar school-masterly approach". He wanted the cast to understand what they are saying, not to stand round looking pretty and mooring.

Peter Dews, who had suffered a number of heart attacks in his last twenty years, is survived by his wife Ann, whom he married in 1960.

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FRANCE.

PARIS, THURSDAY, AUGUST 30. Proscriptions, deprivations, and all the horrors of civil war continue to desolate the country, and drive away its most opulent inhabitants. In consequence of a decree passed on Tuesday night in the National Assembly, that the gates of Paris should be again opened, and a free liberty of ingress [sic] and egress granted, except to such as wish to quit the country, who are to take the necessary passports, thousands yesterday quitted the capital, some in carriages, on horseback and on foot. Those whose former situations rendered them objects of suspicion, went off without asking for any passports, taking the chance of escape or arrestation, in preference to remaining any longer here.

The events of the 10th of August, which gave birth to a new species of power among the heads of the Magistracy, have in their turn given rise to much jealousy and private animosities. The Jacobins here are contending among themselves for power, while the armies on the frontiers are enervated by the mad and inconsistent Decrees of the Executive Power. Never surely was a kingdom torn to pieces and ruined in so short a space of time as this devoted country.

As a proof of the jealousy which reigns

ON THIS DAY

September 3, 1792

A declaration made by the French princes in the early days of the revolution. Jacques Brissot was one of its leaders but his moderate opinions led to his arrest and at the beginning of the Reign of Terror, in June 1793, he was executed.

among the Jacobins, and that they are suspicious of each other, we cannot do better than give M. Brissot's own observations in his Paper of this day (Thursday). His observations are well worthy of particular notice.

"The powers instituted (says he) to give a revolutionary motion, ought to cease with that motion, because these powers, which are a Dictatorship, must, in the end, become the monuments of the Commons of Paris confined themselves to conduct the Revolution of the 10th, to bring the conspirators to justice,

and to watch those who were suspected of being such, the Patriots beheld, without uneasiness, powers which, produced by fermentation, ought to end with it, and dissolve again to the sovereignty of the People."

"The moment, however, it is perceived that these Commissioners prolong their dictatorial authority, usurp the rights of the Commons; dissolve and create Administrations, which they (the Commons) alone have a right to renew and dissolve; divide among themselves places which they alone ought to fill; suspend Magistracies nominated and beloved by the people; and, in a word, exercise authorities which no circumstances can justify, then good Citizens begin to open their eyes; they plainly see that they ought not to commit their twice-gained Liberty to Intriguers, and that they ought not to raise upon the ruins of Royal and Patriotic Despotism, a harder and more hateful Despotism."

Such are M. Brissot's observations, and there is no better authority, for he is one of the leaders of the faction. There cannot be a greater proof of the base villainy of the mob, than their pulling down all the statues of the kingdom — the monuments of the fine arts. It shows the low and degrading disposition of those who unfortunately dominion over us...

Male order resistance

Magazines for men are a sales success, but advertisers still find it hard to reach them as consumers, says Simon Brooke

Although men represent half the population, advertisers still find male consumers a difficult group to target both in the placement and the content of ads.

Arena, the first non-specialist, non-top shelf men's magazine, was launched just over 10 years ago, offering a glossy mixture of fashion and lifestyle features, but until then, says Dylan Jones, *Arena* Group Editor, advertising to men was "a Bermuda triangle in which you couldn't find men to advertise to because you didn't know what they read". Since then the market has grown rapidly, with *FHM* notching up a year on year increase in circulation of 178 per cent which now reaches half a million.

However, magazines aimed at men represent less than a seventh of the female market in circulation terms. And a study commissioned by *The Times* revealed that most young ABC1 men value their newspaper above any magazine.

And, despite the sales success of lads' mags, they present difficulties, says Mr Jones. "Loaded and *Viz* gave everyone a carte blanche to do whatever they wanted. The problem is that they are often bought by kids who don't spend £500 on an Armani suit. Ads for beer or funny T-shirts may be OK, but luxury brands such as cars and travel don't work in this kind of mag."

"Lads' mags are fun because when you laugh at them you do it ironically and put quotation marks around everything. But if you're spending £15,000 on an ad for a Cerruti suit you don't want something opposite mocking it."

Other premium product manufacturers are also considering withdrawing their



Lads' mags increasingly attract readers, but advertisers find difficulties about using them

advertising from lads' mags because of their editorial content. Stephen Gilbert, marketing director for Chanel, which already refuses to advertise in *Loaded*, is considering pulling out of *FHM*. "These titles are driven by sex and the lowest common denominator. We are judged by the company we keep and will be looking for alternative ways of reaching our target audience, without putting our image at risk."

Calvin Klein is also reviewing its advertising strategy. "Calvin Klein wouldn't want to be seen next to a page of breasts," says the company's buyer, Jenny Parker.

Many fear that the appointment of former *Loaded* editor, James Brown, to editor of *GQ* will bring this glossy monthly further downmarket as well. In addition to finding the right arena in which to advertise products, advertisers have

also had difficulties in finding the kind of adverts that make men spend. Historically, says Paul Buckley, a consumer psychologist at the Bristol Business School, selling to men meant selling to their wives or girlfriends. "The only way to advertise directly to them was to put condom adverts in car magazines, for example. Men are more likely to be influenced by point-of-sale advertising."

However, the recent success of campaigns for American-made Dockers trousers demonstrates the huge potential for marketers who can effectively tap into the male psyche. Three out of four US men between 25 and 55 now own a pair of Dockers, and since their launch in Europe last year, sales are up 135 per cent.

In the pan-European advert, a good-looking guy in his early twenties is seen ironing while all around him Americans indulge in crazy, supposedly labour-saving devices. Our hero looks on in resigned amusement and continues to iron, at which point we notice that it is his sandwiches which are being pressed. Dockers don't need ironing, see?

Bruce Crouch, creative director at Dockers' agency, Bartle Bogle Hegarty, suggests that its success was based on its refusal to use a traditional male model. "We didn't want a square-jawed Gilt-type. Of course he has to be good-looking — there's got to be an element of aspiration — but he must be attainable."

Research from Davies Riley-Smith MacKay shows that men relate more to this kind of advertising. "They dislike being presented with ideal faces and bodies that they can never live up to," says spokesperson Lucy Bannister. "While female consumers are happy to look at a beautiful woman in an advertisement, men find beautiful men annoying or embarrassing because they feel they cannot compete."

Evidence of a wider interest in what makes a man tick comes with the launch of the world's first course in Men and Masculinity at Hobart and William Smith colleges in New York State. Students will examine how men's experiences of living and working within society differ from those of women.

By studying films and modern and classic literature, students will be taught about male behaviour and society's attitudes towards men. Whether such courses will give magazine editors and marketing departments a greater insight into the male psyche remains to be seen.

The Client's Story



Men buying people carriers are confident. They don't feel threatened by their wives

● VAUXHALL SINTRA

THE CLIENT: Peter Hope, 30, brand manager, Vauxhall Motors.

WHAT OTHER CAMPAIGNS HAVE YOU BOUGHT? Press work for the Omega and the Monterey. The Frontera commercial where the perspective changes and you see the car at crazy angles.

PRODUCT: The Vauxhall Sintra.

THE AGENCY: Our agency is Lowe Howard Spink. This ad was created by its sister agency, McCann's in Germany.

WHAT'S THE PLOT? It shows a conversation between a man and his wife. He wants to drive, she won't let him. At the end, he is driving but he's only sitting behind the wheel, while the car is on the ferry.

AT WHOM IS IT AIMED? Male 35-44-year-olds married with two or more kids, who earn over £30,000.

WHAT'S THE STRATEGY? When choosing an MPV over a normal car, the driver feels he is foregoing what he enjoys for the sake of the family. It's a huge reason for not going into the market. The Sintra is more car-like.

WAS IT EXPENSIVE? It came to about £300,000.

WHAT SOLD THE SCRIPT TO YOU? It's a pan-European commercial developed with a full European target audience in mind. It was refreshingly simple. The campaign is led by the German market.

IS IT DIFFICULT FINDING IDEAS THAT WORK FOR DIFFERENT NATIONALITIES? Europe is getting increasingly similar. It depends on the product.

AREN'T MEN GETTING FED UP ALWAYS BEING PORTRAYED AS WIMPS? Obviously we

researched it. Men buying people carriers are very confident. They don't feel threatened. They are proud of their families. They probably find this scenario familiar and amusing.

WHAT ABOUT THE WOMEN? The ad is not portraying a power struggle. Women see it as part of a close family relationship.

WOULD YOU LET YOUR WIFE TELL YOU NOT TO DRIVE? I'm not married, but I'm sure that if my girlfriend said I couldn't drive, I'd be pretty similar to the guy in the ad.

WHAT'S THE BEST AD YOU'VE BOUGHT? The Frontera. From a creative point of view.

AND THE WORST? It was a previous press campaign for the Omega. Some of the graphics and colours were absolutely invisible.

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Broadcasters pass the sternest of tests

THE events of the past few days have proved, if any further proof be needed, just how powerful broadcasting can be in moments of national crisis and tragedy and how strong British broadcasting remains despite years of reorganisation, budget cuts and controversy. The resources and the skills are there to be called on.

From the first hesitant clearing of schedules when it was realised how serious the crash was, to the arrival at Northolt of the body of Diana, Princess of Wales, and the polished news bulletins later in the evening, Britain's broadcasters passed the sternest of tests — dealing with the wholly unexpected with the nation looking on.

It was not just that the broadcasters got the story and the facts on the air as quickly as possible. Rather more impressively, an appropriate tone was found which in general managed to steer between mawkishness and newsreader detachment.

In its search for a proper balance of coverage, the BBC even helped to "create" an event of its own to broadcast in St Paul's Cathedral. The BBC wanted to have a special religious service to broadcast in order to replace the scheduled *Songs of Praise*, even though the Corporation realised that straight news coverage would probably have garnered larger audiences. At first the Church of England was not sure whether such a service could be put together at such short notice, but in the end rose to the occasion magnificently.

And so it was that, probably by chance, more than 6 million people were able to watch the most haunting image of Sunday's coverage — the picture of the aircraft carrying the Princess's coffin accompanied not by commentary but by the music from the St Paul's service. At the same time ITN, which was supplying separate services for ITV, Channel 4 and Channel 5 throughout the day, got its highest audience of more than 13 million. Together almost 20 million people were united by television, a very high proportion of the available audience.

Against such a background, broadcasters are not leaping to claim ratings victories. But the BBC can claim the honours during the morning while ITV overhauled the Corporation and took a ratings lead by the early evening.

Interestingly in the age of rolling news and 24-hour news channels, scheduled news bulletins still held sway. More than 10 million people switched to ITN for its regular 6.15pm news, an enormous number for a Sunday evening. Phil Moger, the programme editor, had begun the day on holiday in Majorca, one of many broadcasting executives who scrambled to meet the challenge.

Though few are keen to talk about it, the BBC was undoubtedly able to draw on elements of its well-rehearsed plans to cover the eventual death of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother. There was, also for the first time, the ability to transmit coverage of BBC World, the Corporation's international news service, in the UK during the early hours of the morning.

In Marilyn Lewis, the presenter who loves cats and good news, the BBC had the broadcaster most suited to telling the nation bad news, although ITN's Dermot Murnaghan and Nicholas Owen undoubtedly had the harder news edge.

By 3pm on Sunday the BBC had also learnt an important lesson on what viewers want and what they will not tolerate. At first the calls were complimentary about the unified coverage going out on both television channels. But then the complaints started, and by 3pm the normal, though carefully chosen programmes, resumed on BBC2. It was the right decision to offer viewers a choice after the initial shock was over and one that should inform future coverage of solemn national occasions.

Satellite television also responded to the challenge of providing programming appropriate to the occasion. QVC, the shopping channel, suspended its operations and pictures on MTV carried a text line referring viewers to news channels.

After the official confirmation of the Princess's death, the Sky channels changed their schedules to play the national anthem and carry tributes. As a 24-hour channel, Sky News has an obvious advantage on breaking news stories and it seems that Sky was indeed first with the news of the crash.

ONE FLAW, perhaps understandable, in Sunday's coverage was to place too great an initial weight on the activities of the paparazzi, however disgraceful, and not enough emphasis on the sort of driving that produced such a wreck.

In the wake of the drunken driver and the speedometer jammed at 121mph a fairer balance has been restored, but television is sometimes guilty of a certain indecent haste to blame the press and take part in the hue and cry for stricter controls before the full facts are known.

But that is a relatively minor carp in an otherwise impressive performance that demonstrated on Sunday that television is still about more than just trivia and entertainment. Above all else, it shows the key role still to be played by national network television, however many channels there may be, in uniting the nation — a power that will be demonstrated again on Saturday in Westminster Abbey.



RAYMOND SNODDY



Making news: Diana, Princess of Wales, and a man injured by a landmine during the war in Bosnia, surrounded by photographers on her visit to the area early last month

An end to the royal soap

The lives of the rat pack are sure to change, but so will the whole ethos of royal media coverage, says Carol Midgley

You murdering bastards," spat the weeping middle-aged woman to a weary photographer on duty outside the gates of Buckingham Palace. "You killed her, you pigs. You murdered her."

Ugly scenes such as this were being repeated at many venues across London this week as members of the public vented their spleen on the current object of national hatred: the press. No matter that the photographer, a jobbing local newspaper man, had never photographed, let alone followed, Diana, Princess of Wales. He is part of the industry and, in many people's eyes, we are all partly to blame.

Journalists in every section of the media — print and broadcast — know that, after the Princess's death, working life will never be quite the same again. Even when the grief has faded, a degree of resentment and intolerance will remain.

No journalist's lives will be more dramatically affected by the tragedy than those of the royal "rat pack", the British newspaper team that has charted the Princess's every move since her engagement to the Prince of Wales 17 years ago.

Royal correspondents have long joked that their brief was not so much a royal watch as a Diana watch. With the exception of Prince Charles and Camilla Parker Bowles, no other public figure has had such an effect on newspaper editors. On a slack news day, a fetching picture of the Princess beneath a snappy headline could solve the problem of a tabloid front-page splash in a stroke.

Stories of photographers and reporters waking each other with 2am phone calls, after being tipped off that she was "on the move again", are legion. Thanks to her

love of globetrotting, the royal team could expect to follow her abroad up to a dozen times a year to places ranging from Barbuda to Martha's Vineyard. Editors spared no expense, letting the rat pack hire boats, helicopters and frequently the best hotels for those ever-elusive shots that could sell newspapers like little else.

Now, the superstar has gone and there is no royal left to excite the public or editors in the same way.

Richard Stott, former Editor of *The Mirror* and *Today*, says: "The problem is that to many people Diana was the Royal Family and the rest of them were very lame also-rans. Diana leaves an unfillable gap. They [the royal pack] didn't really do very much else than follow her around because she was the news."

The Duchess of York has gone by the board because the British are not particularly interested any more. The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh they don't really bother with and the Princess Royal has virtually disappeared.

He added that there would still be a thirst for pictures of the Prince and Mrs Parker Bowles and that editors would voluntarily "rein themselves in". "I don't think you will find people snooping in hedgerows, certainly not staff photographers anyway. And you are going to be a very brave freelance to take that chance. Editors will probably not buy the pictures. This has been a chastening experience for everybody. Clearly there is going to be some retrenchment and I hope some good can come out of this for William."

One of the most traumatic aspects of the Princess's death for the rat pack has been that, in the public's eyes, they have been unfairly lumped with the international paparazzi. For now, at least, a large percentage of the public neither understands nor cares about the distinction between foreign chancers on motorbikes and the faithful pack whom she knew and, in most cases, trusted. Even

the Princess, who personally knew the above, together with Charles Rae, of *The Sun*, Robert Johnson, of *The Express*, Clive Goodman, of *The News of the World*, had largely enjoyed a pleasant working relationship with them. Richard Kay, a writer on the *Daily Mail*, was her closest press confidant and became a personal friend.

It was certain members of the paparazzi she feared and loathed, and who she said would often verbally abuse her as she tried to evade them.

Harry Arnold, a legendary former royal reporter with *The Sun* who now works for *The Mirror*, said that he had chatted with the Princess at functions on more than a dozen occasions. "It was understood that it was off the record and we all abided by it. She was happy with that," he says.

But relations with the Royal Family would now change. "I think the style of royal reporting changes every few decades," he adds. "We have reached a pinnacle where the gossip, soap opera-style reporting will go and we will revert to a more respectful style of coverage for a period of time."

He added that the royals were more than capable of maintaining their privacy. "If the Royal Family don't want a photograph taken, it doesn't get taken," he says. "How many pictures exist of Charles and Camilla together? Only about two, and they were taken years ago. They have the resources to maintain their privacy if they want it."

However, British interest in the Princess intensified in the 1990s to an extent that some found intolerable. Jane Fincher, a photographer

who resigned from the royal rota because of the "bad manners" of some photographers, says she felt ashamed when cameramen would block the Princess's way. "Trapping her in corners and hunting her down like hounds with a fox."

A sea change came, she says, when the Princess separated and divorced her husband. "After that, it seemed, the barriers went down," she says.

Phil Dampier, who covered the royal beat at *The Sun* for six years and is now freelance, agreed that for the British press at least, the rest of the royals are now of dwindling interest. He recently covered the Queen's tour of the Caribbean. Most newspapers did not bother to send a reporter. "In November 1995, when I was covering the Prince in Germany, there was just me and Richard Kay there," he adds. "Picture desks tend not to send someone because he is just 'a man in a suit'."

The next really glamorous person is William, but for the next couple of years at least he will be left alone. Fleet Street has been very good and not photographed him at Eton but I find it hard to believe that when he gets to 18 and starts seeing girlfriends there will not be huge interest."

However, newspapers know that, in the wake of his mother's death, Prince William may harbour a hatred of the press.

Andrew Neil, Editor-in-Chief of *The Scotsman*, says everyone in the industry would have to think about how to proceed. "The big test is when Prince William gets his first girlfriend, then we will see if all the words of respect and sensitivity will come to mean anything," he says. "We could have a lifetime enemy in the hands of the next King."

Few non-journalists realised that

To many people, the Princess was the Royal Family

the news that the driver of the Princess's car was drunk has done little to abate public thirst for the blood of tabloid proprietors.

The royal followers have been genuinely grief-stricken by her loss. Where normally they would be commenting on radio and TV, this week they have been silent. In their respective newspapers, Arthur Edwards, royal photographer at *The Sun*, and Kent Gavin, royal photographer at *The Mirror*, both wrote that they had wept at the news. James Whitaker, *The Mirror's* royal correspondent, wrote that he "adored" her and was crying as he filed his copy.

Plaintiffs suing in France can choose the court in which they wish their case to be heard. Most opt for the one at Nanterre because, over the years, it has awarded the highest damages. Certain celebrities are becoming adept at suing the magazines.

During the past five years one of our magazines has paid a TV news presenter more than £60,000 in damages. She has also successfully sued other magazines. The total of damages awarded to her is an important source of income," said Mr Rassat.

What's worrying is that these celebrities invite us into their homes when they have a product to sell. They sometimes negotiate fees for photos of themselves and their families on holiday, but the moment they are spotted in Paris, and the photo is published without their consent, they sue," he added.

The Minister of Justice, Elisabeth Guigou, thinks the situation needs to be reviewed. "After the death of the Princess, it is time that we reflected about the way certain sections of the press carry out their work," she said.

But any strengthening of France's laws could impede serious investigation by journalists. Gilles Hervé, who teaches at one of the leading journalism schools, thinks there are dangers in going down the legislative road.

"Clearly there are problems when there are hundreds of cases brought every year. Stopping journalists working to find out what politicians are up to could have serious consequences for society."

Why paparazzi are beyond the law

France's draconian privacy laws have not managed to curb the sensationalist press, says Wayne Bodkin

It is a tragic irony that France, the country with one of Europe's strictest privacy laws, is where Diana, Princess of Wales was killed, pursued by paparazzi.

It is in France that some of the most intrusive photographs have been taken. Who could forget the world-famous pictures of the Duchess of York having her feet kissed by her financial adviser, John Bryan, by a swimming pool in Provence, or the recent photographs of the Princess and Dodi Fayed in an intimate embrace off St Tropez?

Celebrities such as Tom Cruise, the actor, and Luciano Pavarotti, the tenor, are calling for tough new anti-paparazzi laws. But media commentators argue that if draconian French laws could not prevent such intrusions, what would be the purpose of such legislation in Britain?



Cruise against paparazzi

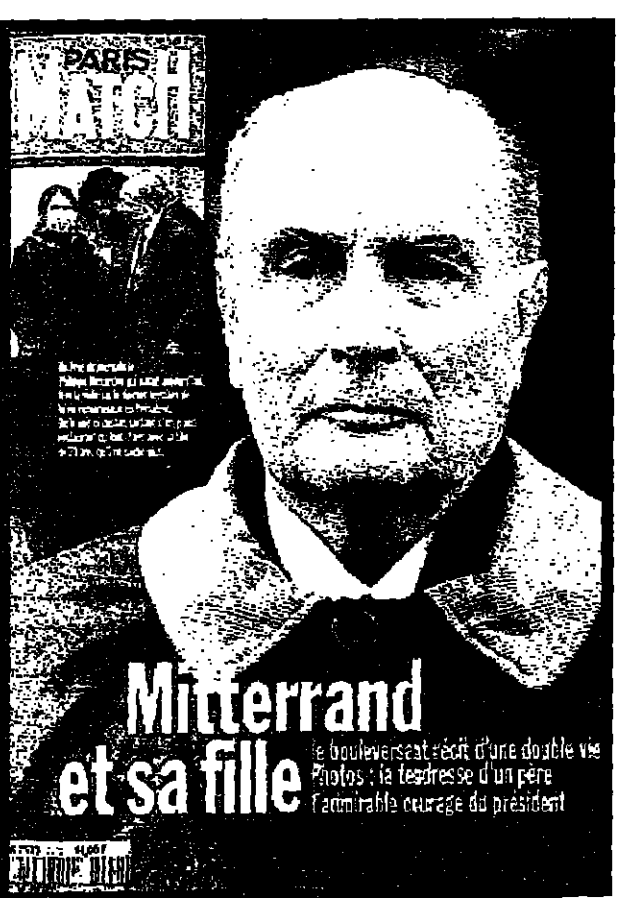
Article 9 of the French Civil Code "guarantees every individual the right to privacy", and should combat unwarranted intrusion into people's lives. It covers two pages of the code and includes references to people's religion, personal lives and homes.

It was passed at the end of the Sixties, after Brigitte Bardot and other stars complained about being pestered on the beaches of St Tropez.

allowed damages. If a star who changes partner often and who has a reputation for enjoying the high life is snapped outside a night club, he or she is likely to win the case, but the damages could be purely symbolic — any award depends on the extent to which the plaintiff has been shown to have suffered.

But such laws have not stopped magazines publishing photos taken by paparazzi. *Voici*, *France-Dimanche*, *Le Parisien* and *Paris Match*, the market leader, are among those often fined. Paying damages and having to print front-page apologies does not deter them. Payouts never match the profit generated by the photos, so publishers are prepared to take the risk. And with some photos fetching tens of thousands of pounds, there is no shortage of willing photographers.

On August 21, 1992 the *Daily Mirror* published exclusive photos of a topless Duchess of York lying by a swimming pool in a villa in the south of France, receiving the attentions of John Bryan. The same photos were published in *Paris Match* and the *Duchess* sued. She was awarded £70,000. On November 3, 1994, *Paris Match* published photos of Princess Mitterrand's illegitimate daughter,



Match point: Mitterrand and his illegitimate daughter

Mazarine Pinget. It opened a debate about the role of journalists in France. The legal process was started but in this case, as in many others, an out-of-court settlement was reached.

In August 1996, Princess Stephanie of Monaco's lawyers were successful in obtaining an injunction — having invoked Article 9 — stopping the publication in France of photos of her husband (whom she has since divorced) lying naked beside a swimming pool along with a Belgian

stripper, who was also naked. The photos had been published the day before in Italy and, ironically, the magazines that contained them were available throughout France at newsagents.

Prisma Presse, which publishes the magazines *Gala* and *Voici*, budgets for the fines it has to pay when celebrities sue. Director of communication, Marc Rassat, finds the situation hypocritical.

"Years ago, there were hardly any cases in the courts; since Article 9 came into force, they

have multiplied. The stars are awarded huge sums of money, which they do not have to declare for tax purposes," he said.

Plaintiffs suing in France can choose the court in which they wish their case to be heard. Most opt for the one at Nanterre because, over the years, it has awarded the highest damages. Certain celebrities are becoming adept at suing the magazines.

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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 3 1997

CWC ready to launch £100m marketing campaign

By Raymond Snoddy
MEDIA EDITOR

Cable & Wireless Communications is about to launch a marketing campaign that could eventually reach £100 million devoted to establishing its reputation as the largest cable company and to boost the uptake of cable services.

A total of £50 million will be spent between now and March in a national campaign aimed at portraying CWC, formed this year from four cable and communications companies, Nynex, Bell Cablemedia, Videotron and Mercury Communications, as the "accessible" communications company.

A further phase of the campaign will

continue from March aiming at demonstrating how cable can offer a wide range of television and telecommunications services. Although the final budget has not yet been fixed, it is believed the later phase could add up over time to a further £50 million.

Cable companies have had a poor reputation for marketing, partly because their initial priority was to get the networks built.

The marketing campaign, launching later this month, will use a variety of media including television and direct mail. It is believed to be the largest individual campaign to be launched this year. It compares, for example, with BT's total annual advertising budget of about £80 million.

For the past three months Cable & Wire-

less Communications has begun promoting its identity as a cable operator. The new campaign formally marks the end of any attempt by the cable industry to mount generic all-industry advertising campaigns.

Last year the industry got together for a national advertising campaign fronted by the actress and comedienne Dawn French, with poor results. Research showed that viewers liked and remembered Dawn French but were less enlightened about the merits of cable. Only about £10 million out of a planned £20 million budget was actually spent and cable companies decided to go their own way and develop their own individual brands at the local level.

CWC is probably the only cable company

large enough to mount its own national advertising campaign.

The entire account went to Rapier, Stead and Bowden, a medium-sized London advertising agency, which has annual billings of about £150 million. The agency pitched against some of the largest in the business, such as Saatchi & Saatchi, part of Cordiant, and apart from the creative approach won partly because they were seen as "hungry" for the business.

The move will inevitably mean more competition for BT because so far CWC's main emphasis has been on providing competing telephone services. The largest ITV groups - Carlton, Granada and United News & Media - will all benefit from the

national campaign. All have large CWC cable franchises within their areas although the current phase of the campaign is a national one.

CWC cable franchises are mainly located in London, where Carlton and Granada are the commercial broadcasters. Manchester, which is the Granada heartland, and the south coast of England where Meridian, the United subsidiary, is the ITV broadcaster.

Cable & Wireless, CWC's parent company, said that it had agreed to sell its maritime messaging business, Cable & Wireless Bimcom, and its enhanced fax businesses to GN Context, part of the GN Great Nordic Group of Denmark. The businesses have a combined turnover of about £13 million.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	4952.2	(+82.0)
Yield	3.34%	
FTSE All Share	2282.2	(+31.82)
Nikkei	10252.52	(+258.22)
Dow Jones	7786.87	(+104.45)
S&P Composite	518.44	(+18.97)

US RATE

Federal Funds	5 1/8%	(up)
Long Bond	5 7/8%	(L)
Yield	5.57%	

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	7 1/4%	(7 1/4%)
Libor long gilt	11 1/4%	(11 1/4%)
Future (Sep)		

STERLING

New York	1.5913*	(up)
London		
DM	1.5906	(1.6128)
FR	2.9207	(2.8812)
IT	9.3294	(9.6326)
SP	2.3896	(2.4059)
Yen	193.80	(194.94)
% index	101.8	(102.1)

US\$ DOLLAR

London		
DM	1.8338*	(up)
FR	1.5055*	
SP	1.2140*	
Yen	106.8	(106.2)

Tokyo close Yen 121.57

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Nov)	\$18.70	(\$18.65)
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GOLD

London close	\$322.55	(\$324.55)
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* denotes midday trading price

Flying high

Airbus Industrie has won a \$4 billion (£2.5 billion) order for 65 passenger aircraft from ILFC, the US leasing company. British Aerospace, one of the four Airbus partners, is expected to net a share of the work worth \$800 million. Page 26

Poor crop

A poor summer harvest and the strength of the pound will hit profits at Christian Salvesen. The transport and food distribution company also unveiled the final details of its plans to demerge Aggreko, its temperature control division. Page 27

City poised to introduce votes reform

By Martin Waller, Deputy City Editor

THE Corporation of London, the local government in the City, is preparing for the biggest shake-up in more than a century, designed to allow banks and other financial institutions with a stake in the Square Mile to vote for the first time.

The proposals from officials are in response to Labour's Green Paper on local government for the capital that was published at the end of July.

By expanding hugely the business franchise, currently limited to members of partnerships such as accountants and solicitors, they would have the effect of sweeping away the undemocratic electoral system in place at present that allows a handful of people to dominate the politics of several wards, or local parishes.

The Green Paper accepted for the first time in Labour's recent history that the Corporation should be allowed to

survive in one form or another rather than be absorbed by the proposed new Greater London Authority. But it also called for a review of the franchise within the Square Mile so it more accurately represented the interests of its various



occupants, business and residential.

The Corporation has now started consultations with a range of City institutions and is likely to recommend a widening of the business franchise to its members, the

elected councillors, within a couple of months. If, as expected, they agree, the proposals will go to the Government.

Tom Simmonds, the City secretary, said: "We would be extending our existing system so that we encompassed businesses generally in the City."

Reform of the business franchise to bring in limited companies has been on the agenda at Guildhall for some time. The White Paper, to be published in time for the May 7 referendum when Londoners will be given the chance to vote on whether they want a new authority, has provided the opportunity, the Corporation says. "The Labour Party is saying to us they want us to change," said Mr Simmonds. "In order to effect change you need legislation."

Although there has been no firm decision on the new structure, the Corporation favours some kind of tapering franchise giving firms votes according to their involvement in the City. The simplest option would be to tie the number of votes to the rateable value of their properties.

At present votes are restricted to property owners, defined as those ultimately liable to pay the rates, and to the 5,000 private residents of the Square Mile. This means partners, as legal owners of the various partnerships, have the vote, as do owners of small businesses, and in all there are 15,000 such voters. But directors of private companies, including the huge financial institutions that dominate the City, do not.

The Corporation says that its plans, although creating a new class of business voter, would not reduce the power of those private residents because they are almost entirely restricted to the two wards covered by the Barbican, where they dominate the electoral roll.

The implications of wholesale reform go much wider than merely giving the big players in the City a voice for the first time. Bringing these in will eventually spell the end of various other antiquated practices.

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Commentary, page 27



Joe Dwyer, left, and Richard Saville, finance director, are planning a move into sheltered housing and luxury homes

Wall Street surge gives European markets a boost

By Janet Bush, Economics Editor

WALL STREET yesterday dramatically shook off its worries about US interest rates and collapsing Asian markets.

Spurred on by a stronger dollar and a weaker than expected report from American manufacturers, which allayed fears of higher US rates, the Dow Jones industrial average at one stage showed a gain of 179 points to breach the 7,800 level.

In London, the FTSE 100 index of leading shares jumped 1.7 per cent, rising 82 points to 4,952.2. The mood was helped by a growing belief that the UK economy may be cooling, obviating the need for more interest rate rises.

Although dealers noted that Wall Street's rally came on light volume and was dominated by technical interplay

with futures markets, there was a positive effect on bourses around Europe. There was early relief from a recovery in battered Asian markets. Hong Kong's Hang Seng index closed up more than 2 per cent after a five-day losing streak.

European markets were also boosted by the Bundesbank's decision to leave Germany's key money market rate unchanged.

Comments from officials in Tokyo, hinting that Japan had no immediate plans to halt the US currency's rise against the yen, reinforced the dollar's strength. The dollar hit its highest level against the yen for four months in early European trading, quoted at ¥121.78.

Wimpey looks for acquisitions after profit turnaround

By Carl Mortished

THE threat of a slowdown in the growth of its core business is causing George Wimpey to plan a move into sheltered housing, luxury homes and urban renewal.

The housebuilding group, which yesterday announced a £21 million turnaround in half-year profits, is looking for acquisitions. The volume builder fears that its Wimpey Homes and McLean Homes subsidiaries could soon be fighting each other for business.

Joe Dwyer, chief executive of the housebuilding group, said Wimpey and McLean could reach an upper limit of 7,000 completions. He said: "Having got national coverage at 5 per cent, which does not sound much, you could start competing with yourself."

Mr Dwyer said the group

could generate £40 million in cash every year, enough to fund a new business. Over the next 18 months, Wimpey will consider acquiring or building in luxury housing, the customised urban renewal market or sheltered housing. Wimpey's half-year pre-tax result rose from a deficit of £8.6 million to profits of £12.5 million and Mr Dwyer predicted buoyant trading in the second half.

Morrison, Wimpey's US business, broke even in the first half and is forecasting a 10 per cent return on capital next year. Ardel, the Australian operation, which made a profit of £1 million, is to be sold. Wimpey has held the interim dividend at 2p a share.

Tempus, page 28

Hotel chains merge

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

THE \$4.7 billion (£2.94 billion) merger of two prominent US hotel chains will create the country's third-largest hotel group, it was announced yesterday.

The corporate marriage of Doubletree, based in Phoenix, Arizona, and Promus Hotel, of Memphis, Tennessee, would create a group with annual revenue of \$5 billion - larger than all but the Holiday Inn and Marriott hotel chains.

The merger is part of a trend towards consolidation in the international hotel market. Hilton Hotels Corporation is currently embroiled in a bitter \$11.5 billion hostile takeover battle for ITT Corp, owner of Sheraton Hotels. In February Marriott, already owner of a 49

per cent stake in Ritz-Carlton, paid around \$1 billion for the Renaissance Hotel Group, gazzumping Doubletree. The enlarged Promus group will boast 1,136 hotels, more than 172,000 rooms, and 40,000 employees.

The mid-price hotels presently operated by Promus include Embassy Suites, Hampton Inns & Suites, Homewood Suites, Embassy Vacation Resorts and the Hampton Vacation Resorts. Doubletree is the exclusive franchisor of the Doubletree Hotels, the Doubletree Guest Suites, Club Hotels by Doubletree and the Red Lion Hotels.

The companies envisage their merger would result in savings of up to \$20 million a year.

Receivers at Maples

By Adam Jones

MAPLES STORES, the chain of furniture shops that has been trading for more than 150 years, has gone into receivership, threatening about 340 jobs. The shops will stay open as receivers from Deloitte & Touche, the accountant, search for a buyer.

The depth of Maples's financial troubles emerged after a boardroom shakeout was announced two weeks ago. Maples said Grahame Winter, group managing director, and Gareth Moore, finance director, were stepping down before a comprehensive review of the company and its strategy. The changes were linked to the appointment of Tom Vyner, the J Sainsbury director due to retire next year,

as non-executive chairman in May. Roger Powdrill, one of two Deloitte & Touche administrative receivers appointed yesterday, said: "We are allowing the business to continue to trade in an effort to preserve this long-established company. It may take several days to assess fully the situation. However, with the strong brand names of Maples and Waring & Gillow and extremely strong customer loyalty, we are hoping to sell the business as a going concern. We have already identified various prospective purchasers."

Maples was sold by Asda, the supermarket group, three-and-a-half years ago. It is now owned by a group of venture capitalists.

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Broker lifts Northern Rock windfall estimate

By ANNE ASHWORTH

THE 885,000 beneficiaries of the Northern Rock conversion could be in line for a windfall of £1,950 when their building society floats on October 1. This is twice the amount that was expected when the society, based in Newcastle, announced its intention to convert in April last year.

Geoff Miller, banking analyst at Wise Speke, the broker, is predicting a 390p opening price,

based on the valuation of other converted societies. This capitalises Northern Rock at more than £2 billion.

Mr Miller said: "In our view, the Northern Rock has one of the best strategies for growth in the sector. Its costs are low because it has a small branch network and centralised processing. Other lenders have to rely for their growth on selling as many extra products as possible to existing customers." Other analysts are slightly less optimistic, envisaging a price of 340p-350p,

giving a windfall of £1,750. These predictions compare with the society's own estimate of 260p-295p, which implies a maximum payout of £1,475. Members will receive 500 shares each.

Those wishing to dispose of their holdings will be able to sell at low cost through an auction to be held on September 30. Those wishing to retain their stakes can put them into a special shareholder account, or take share certificates. They will be able to state their

preference on forms that must be returned by September 26.

Adam Applegarth, Northern Rock executive director, said the Northern Rock would not be particularly attractive to a predator as there were no costs to be stripped out. Mr Applegarth said: "I would have thought that the medium-sized converted societies, such as Woolwich and Alliance & Leicester were more vulnerable." The law makes the takeover of a converted society extremely difficult, but not impossible.

Airbus wins \$4bn order from lease company

By OLIVER AUGUST

AIRBUS INDUSTRIE has won a \$4 billion (£2.5 billion) order for 65 passenger aircraft from ILFC, the US leasing company. British Aerospace, one of the four Airbus partners, is expected to net a workshare worth \$800 million.

The order will make ILFC the largest Airbus customer and highlights the growing trend of airlines leasing planes rather than buying them directly from manufacturers.

ILFC has ordered 50 narrow-bodied A319s, A320s and A321s as well as 15 wide-bodied A330s. The wings will be built at British Aerospace plants in Bristol and Chester, safeguarding hundreds of engineering jobs.

The order takes ILFC's total Airbus fleet up to 265 planes, or 11 per cent of Airbus's total production volume. Delivery will commence in 2000 and is likely to last for five years.

John Pierson, the Airbus managing director, said: "Air-craft-leasing companies, and ILFC in particular, play an important role in the distribution of new aircraft. Leasing provides both operational and financial fleet-planning flexibility to airlines of all types around the world."

Boeing, Airbus's US rival, is believed to have also won an ILFC order said to be worth around \$3 billion. It could comprise more than 50 aircraft. An announcement is due this week.

Airbus has been fighting a war of words with Boeing since the US group announced a controversial merger with McDonnell Douglas last December. Mr Pierson said yesterday: "That ILFC relies on Airbus Industrie as one of its major suppliers is a gratifying vote of confidence and endorsement of our overall market presence."

Steven Udvar-Hazy, the ILFC president, said: "Due to the strong demand for leases of Airbus products and our success in providing such products, we are naturally building our portfolio to reflect the popularity of the A320 and A330 families in the global marketplace."

The order, the biggest so far this year, will dispel some of the gloom likely to hang over the Airbus supervisory board meeting later this month. The Boeing merger and internal disputes over turning Airbus into a single corporate entity have overshadowed recent sales successes.

At the meeting, executives from BAE and the three other European partner companies will discuss the choice of Mr Pierson's successor as managing director. He will step down next year.

Traditionally the post is reserved for a Frenchman but BAE has been lobbying for the appointment of external headhunters to widen the search.



Garry Cuthbertson, finance director, front, and Paul Dixon, the chief executive, riding high with a 70 per cent advance in first half pre-tax profits to £4 million at Dixon Motors. Earnings rose 31 per cent to 12.7p. The dividend rises 25 per cent to 2.5p

Rivals get a say on Guinness merger

By DOMINIC WALSH

ALLIED DOMECQ and Seagram, the drink companies, have been called to give evidence at a European Commission hearing into the proposed merger of Guinness and Grand Metropolitan.

After an invitation by Karel van Miert, European Competition Commissioner, both companies are thought to be sending senior executives to a hearing tomorrow and Friday on monopoly ramifications of the £24 billion merger.

The main aim of the hearing, part of a four-month inquiry launched in June, is to let EC competition officials question Guinness and GrandMet executives on areas of concern. Competitors are frequently invited to sessions to give evidence and ask questions.

Allied Domecq declined to comment on arguments it would put, but said: "We have been invited to attend as an interested party. We are sending a company lawyer and a senior manager who looks after our spirits interests."

Industry sources said that Allied's main objections to the merger would centre on the whisky market share that the enlarged group — to be called GMG Brands — would have in Greece, Spain, the Irish Republic, Luxembourg, Belgium and, to some extent, the UK. There have been suggestions that GMG might be made to offload a whisky brand to satisfy the European Commission and the US Federal Trade Commission. However, one analyst said: "The authorities will have to take a view on which brands dominate in which countries... It could get horribly messy."

The Commission has until October 27 to give a ruling.

Ranger Oil agrees £254m Elan merger

RANGER OIL has reached a merger agreement with Elan Energy, its fellow Canadian oil exploration group. Ranger, which is quoted in London and has extensive interests in the North Sea, is making a cash bid of £566 million (£254 million) for Elan, or £10.55 per share, a 17 per cent premium on Elan shares at last Friday's close.

Ranger said that merging would put the group in the top ten independent quoted Canadian oil companies. Fred Dymott, Ranger president, said that Elan would bring a big heavy oil reserve base. "Due to Ranger's growing cashflow from new fields coming onstream in the North Sea and Angola, we can take a longer-term approach and develop Elan's heavy oil reserves more efficiently through the current period of low heavy oil prices," he said. Elan has proven and probable reserves of 216 million barrels, of which 180 million are heavy oil.

Woolwich in pensions

WOOLWICH is to enter the pensions market with a no-frills minimum £30-a-month plan with investments managed by Mercury Asset Management. Unlike recent telephone-based entrants such as Virgin, Woolwich will sell the plan through branch advisers. The monthly fee is £2.50 with no initial charge or penalties for payment breaks. Woolwich's existing life joint venture with Royal & SunAlliance has £300 million in funds and has taken nearly £700 million in Pep investments.

Capita's Naafi contract

CAPITA GROUP yesterday announced winning a £9.5 million contract from the Navy, Army and Air Force Institutes (Naafi) to run their central administrative support services over five years. By November, Capita will manage the support services, encompassing accounts, payroll, personnel and pensions administration and related information technology services. More than 160 Nottingham-based staff will transfer to Capita under the contract. Capita shares rose 1/2p to 267 1/2p.

Trafficmaster cuts losses

TRAFFICMASTER, the traffic information network operator, reduced losses in the first half of the year to £94,000, from £142,000, and had net cash at the half-year end of £14.2 million. Losses per share fell to 2.1p, from 6.2p. David Martell, chief executive, expects to report a maiden profit for the whole of 1997. The company believes that new contracts to be announced in the second half will help it to exceed the break-even point in the full year.

Goode Durrant deal

GOODE DURRANT, the vehicle and equipment hire group, is to pay £28.2 million for the vehicle rental operations of Transport Development Group (TDG), comprising a fleet of 2,440 vehicles. The acquisition will be financed by way of a £22.9 million share placing. Goode Durrant is to place 5.4 million shares at 42p a share. In the first half of 1997, TDG's vehicle rental operations made a marginal contribution to group profits on turnover of £7.2 million.

Cobham buys from ML

ML Holdings, the engineering group, has agreed a sale of its aerospace and marine division to Cobham, the engineering group, for £35 million. ML wants to focus on distribution of electrical and electronic components. The division made pre-tax profits of £1.6 million on sales of £42 million in the year to March 31, with net assets at £11.3 million. Cobham said that the deal gives its Flight Refuelling subsidiary two new niche markets, airborne weapons carriage and pyrotechnics.

Burmah boss on move

JONATHAN FRY, chief executive of Burmah Castrol, has been appointed chairman of Harrisons & Crossfield, Mr Fry, who is scheduled to retire from Burmah early next year, is also chairman of Christian Salvesen and deputy chairman of Northern Foods. Mr Fry will become a director of Harrisons & Crossfield with immediate effect and take up the post of chairman on September 10, the day after the announcement of the company's interim results.

Greenalls sells hotels

GREENALLS GROUP, the pub and hotel operator, has sold three De Vere hotels for £15.2 million to Sarova Hotels. Last month it sold the De Vere Hotel in Coventry for £5.9 million to Britannia Hotels. The company said the proceeds would repay debt and boost capital expenditure. Last year Greenalls considered selling the entire De Vere chain but decided to retain the 16 four and five-star hotels with conference and leisure facilities. It has sold ten hotels in the past three years.

Lambert steps ahead

LAMBERT HOWARTH, the footwear and homewares group, lifted pre-tax profits to £1.7 million, from £790,000, in the six months to June 30 in spite of exceptional costs of £1.3 million. Earnings rose to 7.0p a share, from 4.4p. An interim dividend of 2.75p, up from 2.25p in the first half of 1996, will be paid on October 9. Turnover was £51.2 million, compared with £44.88 million previously. The company said that sales had increased strongly in its imported footwear division.

Partco powers ahead

PARTCO GROUP, the distributor of automotive components, lifted its pre-tax profits to £9.5 million, from £4.4 million, in the half year to June 30 on sales that almost doubled to £174.5 million, from £88 million, after a series of acquisitions, with £51.7 million of sales coming from new businesses. Earnings per share were little changed, at 9.9p, compared with 9.7p. The interim dividend rises to 2.6p, from 2.5p. Partco increased its UK branch network by 142, to 484, in the period.

Save predicts pump closures

By ERIC REGULY



Frost: increased profits

SAVE GROUP, the largest independent petrol retailer, predicted yesterday that another 1,500 petrol stations, equivalent to about 10 per cent of the market, would close this year as the forecast price war continued.

James Frost, chairman of Save (formerly the Frost Group), said he doubted the price war, which was triggered by Esso's "Price Watch" campaign in early 1996, would ease before next year.

But he said that Save, which was forced to shut 28 outlets last year, would not see any further closures. It

now has 413 company-owned sites, accounting for 2 per cent of the petrol market.

The Price Watch campaign, which saw suppliers selling petrol at a loss, reduced Save's turnover by 15.8 per cent, to £203.7 million, in the half year to June 30.

Save's premium pricing policy helped it to report pre-tax profits of £4 million, up 6 per cent, while earnings per share increased 17 per cent to 4.1p.

Mr Frost raised speculation that he is willing to shut Save — Texaco has been mentioned as a possible suitor — when he

said yesterday that "our assets would be a credit to a major oil company". Most of Save's outlets are located in prime urban locations.

He denied that a deal was imminent. "We are not desperate to do anything with anyone," Mr Frost said.

Bid hopes were prompted last month when Shell confirmed that it was in talks to buy Gulf's 450 petrol stations.

An interim dividend of 3.2p, which is unchanged from last year, is to be paid on January 7. The company's shares fell 2p to 73 1/2p.

Protest to Ofgas on British Gas discount

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

RIVALS of British Gas are protesting to Ofgas, the gas industry regulator, over fresh moves by the company to offer discounts of about £40 a year to 1.5 million customers.

Centrica, British Gas's parent, yesterday confirmed that it would offer reductions of 12 per cent on bills for direct-debit customers in southeast England, where there is domestic competition. Rival companies are furious because they believe proper competition has not yet been established and that the price

cuts will encourage customers to stay with British Gas.

The regulator has asked for comments on the price cut — ValuePlus — but it is known that it has already held long negotiations on the discount with Centrica before the announcement of it was made. British Gas's rivals were angered when Centrica introduced the price cut to homes in southwest England, where competition began.

Eastern Natural Gas said extending the discount would undermine competition.

Casino board turns down £3 billion bid

By OLIVER AUGUST

CASINO, the French supermarket chain, yesterday rejected the £3 billion takeover bid made by Promodes, one of its competitors, on Monday.

Casino said: "The members of the supervisory board declared unanimously that they are not in favour of this bid and that, as shareholders, they do not intend to deliver their shares to the bid."

Board members hold more than 50 per cent of the shares. Casino said the supervisory board will meet again soon to give a detailed account of the reasons for its rejection as required by French market rules.

Rallye, the other bid target and the main shareholder in Casino, is also expected to reject the offer.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.30	2.12
Austria S	21.83	19.87
Belgium F	65.46	66.50
Canada \$	2.332	2.144
Cyprus Cyp	0.903	0.832
Denmark K	11.70	10.81
Finland Mk	9.33	9.58
France F	10.29	9.51
Germany D	3.08	2.84
Greece Dr	485	448
Hong Kong S	13.15	11.85
Iceland	127	107
Ireland P	1.14	1.05
Israel Sh	6.95	6.28
Italy Lira	3019	2782
Japan Yen	208.63	191.30
Malta	0.672	0.613
Netherlands G	3.479	3.184
New Zealand \$	2.67	2.45
Norway K	12.68	11.74
Portugal Esc	308.00	286.00
S Africa Rd	8.21	7.25
Spain Pta	257.29	238.50
Sweden Kr	13.45	12.35
Switzerland F	2.95	2.53
Turkey Lira	278432	258584
USA \$	1.700	1.557

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LEGAL NOTICES

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Charity: The Royal National Lifeboat Institution for the Prevention of Loss from Shipwreck (The Lifeboat Institution) (In Liquidation)
Notice is given that the final meeting of the Liquidation of the Lifeboat Institution will be held at 11.00am on 29 September 1997 at 11.00am to be followed at 11.30am by the final meeting of the shareholders of the company.

CRIME INVESTIGATION & DETECTION Ltd
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company will be held at 11.00am on 29 September 1997 at 11.00am.

CREDITORS' VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION
NOTICE OF THE FINAL MEETING OF THE CREDITORS OF THE COMPANY LIMITED (IN LIQUIDATION)
Notice is given that the final meeting of the creditors of the company will be held at 11.00am on 29 September 1997 at 11.00am to be followed at 11.30am by the final meeting of the shareholders of the company.

CREDITORS' VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION
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LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

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Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 2.30pm two days prior to insertion.

When the newly installed Chancellor of the Exchequer attended the Lord Mayor's banquet in Brownie, he conveyed a message that even the most blinkered dignitaries of the City Corporation could not ignore. They could no longer continue behaving as if Lloyd's was still a coffee house and the most that any citizen could strive for was the right to graze sheep in the Square Mile.

Well, bless their buckled shoes, the Lord Mayor and his cohorts have pulled up their silk stockings and come up with a plan for change. Their proposal to extend the franchise to most businesses operating in the City is an obvious improvement on the current system, which has created a series of pocket boroughs in the gift of a few professional partnerships.

Now the idea is to give votes to the banks, brokers and assorted support services that crowd into the City. Quite how firms might decide on the way their allocated weighting of votes will be cast should occasion interesting debate. The effect could certainly be to add to the excitement of the City hustings, where the normal cut and thrust of electioneering is rarely seen, generally being considered rather bad form.

But will the houses of Merrill Lynch, Deutsche Morgan Grenfell and Nomura feel impelled to involve themselves in the government of the City? The Corporation's powers are limited, and certainly do not match the pomp

Pushing out the City boundaries



COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

and circumstance with which its big wigs still surround themselves. With the business of setting the rates no longer in its power, the Corporation's main functions are those of planning, policing and public relations.

The Lord Mayor of London, whose misleading title fails to indicate the narrowness of his domain, is regularly sent abroad to drum up business for the Square Mile. But if London is to continue to flourish as a financial centre, the boundaries of the Square Mile, and the City Corporation, are as outdated as the fancy costumes of its functionaries and undemocratic practices of its preferences.

The finance houses which are so crucial to the success of London now venture westwards beyond the Aldwych and eastwards into Docklands. The City is no longer defined by its history. As the Government proceeds with its plans to recreate a single authority for London, logic would say that the City Corporation should be subsumed into it.

But Tony Blair has indicated his reluctance to be responsible for abolishing the antiquated institution, requiring only that the City should make some gesture towards modernising.

Extending the franchise would be that gesture. But change should not stop there. The arcane procedures by which aldermen and sheriffs are selected and then move upwards to eventually ascend into the Lord Mayor's coach need to be examined.

If chaps want to dress in fancy costume and indulge in private ceremonies, that is their own affair, but such antics have no place in the local government of a modern financial centre.

Returned hunters pot a few bears

New York's return from Labor Day, which traditionally marks the re-appearance of serious money on Wall Street, has at least started auspiciously.

There is so far no hint that turmoil in Asian tiger markets will somehow infect the world's biggest stock exchange. It would

be surprising if they did. The Western financial establishment's failure to take these economies seriously partly explains the excess of boom and bust. It also explains why speculators and panicked mutual funds have scarcely been able to distinguish one Asian market from another.

Thai shares have been in headlong retreat over the past 12 months. They have lost more than half their market value, even though prices have recovered since the IMF deal in July.

Malaysian shares fell off a cliff but that was back in February, not as a result of the recent regional currency crisis. Prices have fallen almost continuously for six months, sagging about 40 per cent from the peak but 30 per cent over 12 months.

In Hong Kong, by far the biggest mainland Eastern stock market, the picture is again different. A political bull market has charged ahead, fuelled both

by relief and by the territory's proud new parent. Prices plunged 18 per cent in the last three weeks of August, until Tuesday's late 2.3 per cent rally. Over twelve months, the Hang Seng index still shows an average gain of more than a fifth.

If any Eastern market could trigger Wall Street it would be Hong Kong, solely because both seemed to have pushed ratings too far and to be in need of a correction. Hong Kong's may be smaller than most because the new administration has the sense and experience to give market forces their due in asset markets, instead of following Peking's instinct to intervene.

In New York, investors are suffering from vertigo but the fears are domestic: higher interest rates or, more likely, recent evidence, a sharp slowdown in profit growth.

London, continental Europe and even Tokyo are still taking their lead from New York rather

than the other way round. Hence the bear squeeze in Paris and other bourses such as Brussels where one trader oxymoronically blamed "panic hedging".

Given that volatility is likely to continue for months, many investors will try to hedge their bets, lots of traders will get it wrong and not a few of both groups will be prone to panic.

Casino on the cards for Tesco?

French planning authorities have taken an even more hostile attitude towards out-of-town development than their British counterparts. Their clampdown on planning permissions is the driving force behind the £3 billion takeover bid currently lying up the food retail scene in France. Although Casino yesterday firmly rebuffed its rival Promodes, analysts do not expect this to be the end of the tale.

French grocers ogle the margins enjoyed in Britain and feel distinctly hard done by. They need to grow market share to survive, and if they cannot try to do that by physically expanding, they must do it by amal-

gamation. Already Auchan and Docks de France have joined forces, and Casino may have to accept that its days of independence are limited.

Its fate is of more than passing interest to Tesco. In spite of the relatively inhospitable market, Tesco has established an expensive base in France, buying the Cateau chain. Although the team from Cheshunt have improved the business, they failed to generate sales growth in the stores last year. "Difficult conditions" was how the company described its experience there.

Now the company is finding other overseas ventures more exciting, particularly in eastern Europe. Although Cateau is not a disaster, the issue for Tesco must be whether to pull out or really make a serious move. The Tesco slide rule has certainly been run over Casino in the past.

United affront

Imagine the conversation as battling Sir Des Pitcher, determined to hang on at United Utilities, tells Derek Wanless, embattled chief executive of NatWest, just how he feels about the way NatWest Markets told the UU board that there needed to be changes at the top. Imprudent words may well have been used. But Sir Des should not have been too nasty. After all, he may soon be grateful for his seat on the NatWest board.

Salvesen issues warning after a poor harvest

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

A POOR summer harvest and the strength of the pound will hit profits at Christian Salvesen, the company said yesterday as it unveiled the final details of its Aggreko demerger plan.

Shares in the distribution and foods company fell 6p to 276p after it revealed the strong pound would knock about £2 million off profits across the group, although it emphasised this was purely a translation impact.

The company added that the wet early summer weather had hit the pea harvest especially hard resulting in a 40

per cent decline in volumes in its food services business. But Christian Salvesen expressed confidence that it had overcome the controversy that has dogged its demerger plan since it was announced last autumn.

Shares in Aggreko, its power systems subsidiary, will be issued on a one-for-one basis with the demerged company expected to be valued at about £300 million. Aggreko will assume £81 million of the group's debt. The company confirmed that no new equity was being raised by either arm of the business. Jonathan Fry, chair-

man, said the demerger of Aggreko marked the "successful culmination" of a seven-year rationalisation of the business. "We are confident that the prospects for both Christian Salvesen and Aggreko will be significantly enhanced by the proposed demerger."

After the demerger the rump Christian Salvesen will consist of a logistics and food services business and will end its historical links with Edinburgh by moving its headquarters to Northampton. The rump business made profits of £44.5 million on a turnover of £535 million last year.

Aggreko, which made profits of £38.4 million on turnover of £167 million last year, will be based in Glasgow. The company said Aggreko was making good progress, although sterling would have an adverse effect on the translation of overseas profits.

Mr Fry will become non-executive chairman of Christian Salvesen. Christopher Masters, currently chief executive of Salvesen, is to be executive chairman of Aggreko.

The company will hold an extraordinary meeting on September 26 to approve details of the demerger, and trading is expected to commence on September 29.

Tempus, page 28

IMI says strong pound is no blip

By OLIVER AUGUST

IMI, the building materials to drinks dispenser group, has forecast that the strong pound is here to stay. "The rise in sterling is not just a temporary blip," Nick Paul, deputy chief executive, said.

Currency movements cut IMI's interim profits by £10 million. The group predicted that the reduction will have doubled at the end of the financial year.

In accordance with its assessment that exchange-

rate changes are unlikely to be reversed, the group has drawn a list of measures to combat newly arising transaction and translation costs.

Some production sites will be moved and new sources will be sought for materials for IMI products. The group is also stepping up an efficiency drive. About 150 UK jobs will be lost in the second half.

Mr Paul said: "What was a marginal decision before will now definitely go ahead. We are not whingeing about currencies. We are dealing with the changes."

Gary Allen, chief executive, is to seek further bolt-on acquisitions to complete the global expansion strategy.

In the half year to June 30, pre-tax profits before exceptional items rose to £70 million from £67 million. Including exceptional items, the figure is £70 million, against £138 million, and earnings per share fell from 31p to 14.4p. The interim dividend, due on October 13, rises from 5p to 5.4p.

Tempus, page 28



Allen: acquisition hunt

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Frankfurt am Main, 27 August 1997
The Board of Directors



Malcolm Walker said that, after a disappointing six months, he was confident that the second half would be better

Iceland falls 18% at half time

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

ICELAND, the frozen food retailer, revealed another hefty fall in half-year profits yesterday but said it was optimistic the country's first national home delivery scheme would help to revive its fortunes.

Iceland said the home delivery scheme, which has created 1,000 full-time jobs, would be fully operational by the end of this month and that take-up to date had been above expectations.

The start-up costs of the

scheme and a sharp rise in interest payments - after the £120 million share buyback earlier this year - caused profits, excluding tax and exceptional items, to slump 18 per cent to £24.5 million.

But shares in the company climbed 2p to 99p as the company said a 1.1 per cent increase in like-for-like sales in the first half had improved to 2 per cent in the first few weeks of the second half.

Malcolm Walker, chairman and chief executive, said he was confident of an improved performance in the second

half. He added that Iceland was exploring the possibility of telephone ordering and was examining other ways its new home distribution network could be employed.

Gearing increased to 131 per cent at the half year, but the

company said it was confident that it would steadily reduce debt over the next four years. The interim dividend was maintained at 1.8p, payable on November 17.

Tempus, page 28

CRH rise exceeds City expectations

By ADAM JONES

CRH, the building materials group based in the Republic of Ireland, shrugged off expectations of a dip in earnings to post a 2 per cent rise in interim profits.

The group, increasingly a leading presence in the US, made pre-tax profits of £165.7 million (£60.6 million) in the first half of 1997. Sales rose 38 per cent to £1.139 billion.

In May CRH said severe winter weather, which interrupted US roadbuilding, and higher financing costs from 1996 acquisitions would lead to a dip in interim profits.

Harry Sheridan, finance director, said the estimate had been conservative: "Things

have worked out just a little bit better in all regions."

CRH bought Ticon, the US crushed-stone and concrete company, from BTR last September for \$330 million (£205 million). Mr Sheridan said CRH was well on the way to its target of saving \$10 million a year by integrating Ticon into its US operations.

Mr Sheridan was bullish about Poland, where CRH is looking for a significantly bigger presence.

The interim dividend of 1r3.45p is a 12 per cent rise on a year ago. Earnings fell 5 per cent to 1r13.2p a share because of an increase in issued shares and a higher tax charge.

Serco profits ahead at halfway stage

SERCO, the business support services group, raised pre-tax profits to £10.6 million from £8.805 million in the six months to June 30 on turnover that rose to £244 million from £188 million.

Earnings improved to 11.5p a share from 8.6p out of which the interim dividend rises to 2p a share from 1.7p.

George Gray, the chairman, said the group has continued to develop its business in the defence and other public and private sector markets.

In the UK Serco and its partners now have three PFI projects under way and the company is the preferred bidder on five others. Serco shares rose 4½p to 78½p, a record high.

Thistle shares tumble

By DOMINIC WALSH

SHARES in Thistle Hotels, the UK's second-biggest hotelier, fell more than 12 per cent yesterday in the wake of weak interim results and amid City fears over future trading.

It unveiled a 58 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £38.1 million in the 28 weeks to July 13, against forecasts closer to £40 million. Operating profit, adjusted for property write-downs, rose 9 per cent to £55 million and turnover was up 10 per cent to £160.2 million.

The shares, floated at 170p last autumn, fell from 151½p to 132½p, and analysts cut

back full-year estimates. Nigel Hicks, of BZW, slashed his forecast from £91.5 million to about £80 million.

Robert Peel, chief executive, said there had been progress at all levels, but he admitted the results were short of targets. The key factors had been major refurbishment in London, a more stringent depreciation policy, and the adverse comparison with last summer's successful Euro 96 football championships.

He also admitted that the strength of sterling, allied to normal rate rises, had made

London rooms more expensive, but said it was too early to assess the impact.

Turnover in London, which accounts for two thirds of group profits, rose a below-average 12.1 per cent to £90.4 million, while in Scotland the advance was just 4.9 per cent.

In move to concentrate on the four-star Thistle brand, the company is to offload 15 seasonal hotels that cater for the coach holiday market.

An interim dividend of 1.4p will be paid on November 21.

Investors nervous, page 29

CMG

"Strong organic growth..."

Summary interim results for six months to 30 June 1997

	1997	1996	Change
Turnover	£149.7m	£116.6m	21%
Operating profit	£14.6m	£12.2m	30%
Profit before tax	£15.1m	£11.3m	33%
Profit after tax	£9.5m	£7.1m	34%
Earnings per share	14.9p	11.4p	31%
Interim dividend	2.6p	2.0p	30%

(Available on 30 November 1997 to all shareholders on the register on 17 October 1997. Ex-dividend date is 13 October 1997.)

Highlights

- Pre-tax profits up 33% (56%) to £15.1 million
- 21% (39%) growth in Group turnover virtually all organic
- Operating margin up from 9.6% to 10.4%
- Germany returns to profit even before Orga-Team contribution
- Further substantial turnover and profit growth in The Netherlands
- Continuing growth in market share in the UK
- Staff numbers up 20% from year end to 4202 at end of June

On the outlook for the remainder of the year, CMG Chairman Cor Stutterheim said,

"The Group's performance since the end of June continues to be very satisfactory and our main markets remain buoyant. Notwithstanding the tight recruitment market, we anticipate that the second half year, traditionally CMG's better half, will enable us to produce a further strong set of results for the full year."

CMG plc is a leading European IT services group. Established in 1964, CMG now operates in more than 30 countries from its bases in the UK, The Netherlands and Germany. The Group is listed on the London and Amsterdam Stock Exchanges.

CMG supplies systems development, management consultancy and advanced technology services in the finance, transport, trade & industry, energy, telecommunications and public sectors. The Group also provides managed information processing services, including payroll and personnel.

Copies of the full Interim Report, which will be sent to shareholders during September, may be obtained from: Michael Harrington, Group Communications, CMG plc, Telcel House, Telford Street, London SW6 6PL. Tel: 020 7596 0000.

Robert Peel has developed a fearsome reputation for attention to detail in his 20 years at the helm of Thistle Hotels. His ability to digest the myriad reports and figures that cross his desk every day is legendary, and it is not unknown for him to tick off managers for ordering too many toothpicks.

But yesterday he gave the impression of a man at ease as he sought to explain a set of first-half figures that failed to match City expectations so comprehensively that more than 12 per cent was wiped off the company's market value.

Mr Peel spoke bravely of adopting a more conservative approach so that in future City expectations would be more likely to be surpassed than disappointed. But analysts left his presentation shaking their heads. One said: "I have to say that Robert was quite dreadful. The reasons he outlined to justify the first-half figures led one to believe the second half would be a hell of a lot better. But when it came to prospects for the rest of the year he said growth would only be 'slightly' better. That simply isn't good enough."

The hotel sector has been feeling unloved this year, with the

Investors remain nervous of booking into hotel stocks

top players struggling to make headway. Millennium & Copthorne's strong results recently gave share prices a small boost, but the sector continues to lag the market and Mr Peel's counterparts had been hoping Thistle would give things a further push.

The market's approach to the leisure sector as a whole has been driven largely by fears over the effect of interest rates on leisure spending, the potential effect of the strong pound on business from overseas, and suggestions that hotel occupancy and room rates will have nowhere to go once the inevitable economic downturn starts. There are also fears of overcapacity as new room stock comes on stream.

Peter Eyles, chief executive of Hanover International, the regional four-star group, said part of the problem was that most hotel shares had suffered from the general market indifference to smaller company stocks. He said that smaller companies had been looking to the bigger companies such



Thistle, which runs the Royal Horseguards hotel, upset City

as Thistle to help to break the malaise. "Reactions to results like this won't do the sector any good at all."

But he was adamant that fears that there might be a levelling off of growth next year had been overdone. "I think the economy is reasonably well set to carry on and I don't believe the market has hit the top. Occupancy growth

has slowed down somewhat, but you're going to see continuing room rate growth."

This was echoed by Jonathan Langston, joint managing director of BDO Hospitality Consulting, which produces an annual report on the UK hotel industry. "In our survey, occupancy was virtually at capacity, with London full six days out seven. So with capacity relatively con-

strained that is likely to translate into continued growth in average rates." He said the lack of interest in hotel stocks could be attributed only to City fears of a downturn, concerns not borne out by his company's research.

Some commentators have cited the proliferation of budget hotels such as Forte Travelodge and Whitbread's Travel Inn as a negative factor for three-star operators such as Jarvis Hotels and Regal Hotel Group, which reports interim results today. Stuart May, chief executive of Pannell Kerr Forster Associates, the hotel and leisure consultancy, said: "There is some concern over the competitive pressures on the midmarket hotel groups from the budget sector and that it could, over time, impact on provincial hotels."

Brue Jones, leisure analyst at Merrill Lynch, agreed that profits growth, albeit at a slightly slower pace, would continue through next year and he believed many inves-

tors had probably sold out of the sector too early. "Investors who had seen good increases began to get twitchy," he said. "I'm not sure those that have got out want to get back in just yet, and those that are still in don't want any more exposure." The exceptions were more broadly based groups such as Granada and Ladbroke, where hotels form just part of the company.

Mr Jones said much of the nervousness could be traced to the hammering taken by the sector as a result of the Gulf War, closely followed by the recession. "The fact is that investors got caught at the end of the 1980s with hotel stocks and lost a lot of money. They believed there were two elements to hotel stocks and that even if profits went down the net asset value would protect them. They learnt the hard way that net asset value was simply a multiple of profits."

That nervousness is also a symptom of some of the more dubious practices to which the hotel industry has sometimes been prone. The recent jailing for eight years of Robert Feld, managing director of the ill-fated Resort Hotels group, and last month's court case involving Queens Moat Houses can only heighten reluctance to invest in hotels.

DOMINIC WALSH



ANTHONY HARRIS

A lament for targeting of money supply

One of the City's most interesting teams of analysts is fielded by Lombard Street Research. It has a high hit rate in forecasting and in originality, yet it normally exhibits schizophrenia. Tim Congdon, the former Treasury

growth of money income, not real income. So if we really are in a new world of low inflation, then any given monetary target allows higher real growth than the authorities may have expected, or have thought safe.

Logically, this looks watertight: but only if you employ a little amnesia. For if monetary targeting has such wonderful qualities, why has nearly everyone abandoned it? The reason is simply that when we tried it, it didn't work. The broad money supply — cash plus bank and even building society deposits — does relate pretty well to nominal growth when times are calm. But as Margaret Thatcher discovered (and, more recently, the Bundesbank) it is awfully hard to control. Raise rates to restrain it, and it tends to grow faster than ever; deposits are more attractive, and debts are harder to repay.

Targeting narrow money is much easier. Central bank money, the narrowest definition of all, can be run quite directly through market intervention, and the Germans achieved stability in this way for many years. But what would it mean in these days of electronic payments and free convertibility? Not very much. So where does all this leave us? Not quite where we came in. If inflation targeting is indeed a mistake, and it is, one alternative is a different real target: the US Fed is told to target both inflation and unemployment, and seems to do much better. However, the Fed has a far from secret weapon in Alan Greenspan: it is his prestige that makes it possible to run risks, yet keep the markets purring.

The other is to adopt the kind of technical targets that markets love — but with a twist. As a Bundesbank director put it at an international conference some years ago: "What every central bank needs is a clear and consistent policy which the markets can understand; and a very skilled spokesman to explain why, at any given time, that policy is not being followed."

In one sentence: there is no substitute for judgment.

Big companies change emphasis in the business of giving to charity

Fraser Nelson sees a switch from cash donations to cause-related marketing

Charity, it seems, now begins in the boardroom. From Camelot to British Telecom, companies are shouting longer and louder about their "community involvement."

A recent stroll through Tesco saw pictures of schoolchildren adorning the walls, the slogan "computers for schools" everywhere and the feeling that the store was some kind of charity shop — every penny you spend helps someone else.

Only yesterday, Somerfield volunteered to give every penny of profits it earns on Saturday to charities favoured by the Princess of Wales. Their staff are to be slipped an extra tenner, and encouraged to put it in the same direction.

But for all the hype, British companies are still notoriously tight-fisted when it comes to parting with hard cash. The average cash donation amounts to some 0.08 per cent of profit, with only three companies giving more than 3 per cent and no one known to give more than 10 per cent.

By law, companies must separate their charitable donations in their accounts — and the results make surprising reading. British Telecom's £15 million donation was just less than 0.5 per cent of its group profit — and on these stakes it is ranked 58th in terms of corporate generosity.

The most generous companies are frequently the least glamorous. Tarmac, the construction company, takes the



Pictures of schoolchildren adorning the walls in Tesco gave the feeling that every penny spent would help someone

bouquet after donating £379,000 to charity — some 3.61 per cent of its profits.

Kwik Save, by virtue of last year's profits collapse, emerges as the next most generous. It gave £87,000 when its profits crumbled from £126 million to £2.8 million. Anita Roddick's Body Shop is next, with a £750,000 donation at 2.37 per cent of profits, followed by United Biscuits, EMI, Cookson and Bantalls at 1.41 per cent.

The £18 million given by Glaxo Wellcome, by contrast, is just 0.61 per cent of its profits. Cadbury Schweppes' £1.04 million is 0.17 per cent of its takings, and the £690,000 given by British Aerospace ranks as 0.16 per cent.

Indeed, attempts to tweak the conscience of companies have so far generated absolutely no increase in donations. The Directory for Social

Change, which every year monitors charity donations, says that while the average donation has gone up broadly in line with inflation companies are still finding it hard to give more than 0.5 per cent of their profits to causes more needy than themselves.

It has set up the "per cent club" — a slight misnomer

the 1 per cent club which is very heavily subscribed," he said. "They have a 5 per cent club, which still has a healthy number of members, and they even have a 10 per cent club which would be unimaginable to achieve over here."

British companies, however, say that they are taking a third route. The pages of annual

reports devoted to how much the company cares about society and how much it gives talk about "community contributions" — often many times larger than the actual cash sum given in the small print.

The name of this third route is cause-related marketing, a phrase coined by a group of

Adkins, from Business in the Community, said cause-related marketing was about the only chance that charities have left. "The fact is that the amount of cash going to charities is getting smaller and smaller, so they have to think of other ways to raise funds," she said. "Cadbury recently sponsored a Save the Children walkabout, and the idea behind that is people when faced with other brands will link Cadbury with good causes, having fun, and buy its chocolate."

Research shows the method is going down a treat with consumers. It says that 73 per cent of consumers will swap brands if they think that a tiny proportion of the money spent is going to charity. Some 61 per cent said they would change retail outlets — say, switch from Sainsbury to Tesco because of its computers promotion — and 86 per cent said they thought much more of a company that links its products with donations, however minuscule.

"This is not about altruism. It's about business sense, and its about all sides winning," she said. "This is the only way it can be done nowadays. It would be ideal to receive donations, but, as charities know now, if they go to businesses with a begging bowl there's a limit to how much they can expect."

Under cause-related marketing, a company takes up a good cause with the intention of selling more products, improving its profile and helping charities along the way.

But charity is not. So although Tesco's computers for schools scheme funded £6 million of computers last year, it cannot be measured as a percentage of profit.

Charities report that straight, low-profile donations are increasingly being seen as dead money when the opportunity is there to link the company with good causes in the minds of millions. Sue

Consumers will swap brands if they think money will go to charity

because companies need to give 0.5 per cent of their profits to charity in order to qualify for membership.

Paul Brown, who helped to compile the latest report, said that this entry level was the only one it could set if it expected to have any members at all. "In America, they have

reports devoted to how much the company cares about society and how much it gives talk about "community contributions" — often many times larger than the actual cash sum given in the small print.

The name of this third route is cause-related marketing, a phrase coined by a group of

Two churches

AN UNCOMFORTABLE conflict of interest for the chairman of the tiny Catholic Building Society, which holds the principle of mutuality as an article of faith. His name is Chris Jones. Oddly enough, the same name appears on the board of directors of the Cairngorm Demutualisation Investment Trust, launching next week with the aim of "providing investors with the opportunity to profit from future demutualisations."

"You must have your wires crossed. It's probably not the

same Chris Jones," said a spokesman for the Catholic, at first. A common enough name, but it is indeed the same man, the same spokesman had to confess later. And how does Jones justify praying before two such different altars? "I'm not trying to ride both horses. There are horses for courses," says Mr Jones, in a baffling equestrian mixed metaphor. "I truly believe in the mutual movement... where the mutual organisation is appropriate." Oh Lord, give me chastity, continence and demutualisation — but not yet.

ON AN allied note, the survey on demutualisation from HSBC Greenwell comes up with an odd parallel. In his keenness to spot the next domino to fall, Jonathan Lynes extends his argument beyond the boundaries of the temporal world — private schools, hospitals and old people's homes whose ultimate ownership is not always clear — into the realms of the spiritual. "At the very extreme, it might even be suggested that the ultimate 'mutual' organisation is the Church." But has anyone told Andrew Regan?



"This isn't the investment in Northern Rock that I had in mind..."



Identity crisis

THE logo police strike again. The latest victim is Selfridges, which has brought in a design agency to create a new design "both contemporary and confident". In place of Selfridges, we get the much more exciting "Selfridges & Co." Which would allow the use of a new retail brand for some own-label goods. Step forward, the even more distinctive "S&Co". So from Selfridges we get, in two easy steps, to S&Co. From a world-famous name to what looks like accident on the typewriter keyboard. Meanwhile the image of the London store, also recognised from Tusca-

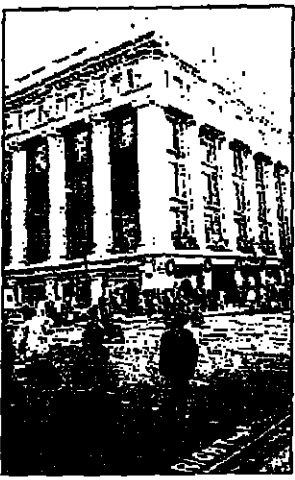
loosa to Tokyo, is being dropped from its carrier bags. Truly tragic.

SHEILA GUNN, former political correspondent at The Times and John Major's spin doctor in the run-up to the election — he used to call her "Peter Mandelson in skirts" — has resurfaced at last. At something of a loose end this summer, she started this week as head of public affairs at Hooley & Baker. A nice billet, even if Gunn herself admits she is not the world's expert on property. "I didn't know much about being a spin-doctor until two years ago." She is surprisingly keen on Mandelson, though. Still a Major loyalist, Gunn is convinced Mandy has it in him to win the next election — for the Tories.

Own goal

AS IF further proof was needed that management consultants evolved a long way from Planet Common Sense, PA Consulting has just managed an own goal. "Recognising the key role of the leader to achieve success," the organisation has produced a pan-European survey on leadership. "Achieving Business Excellence" is actually a series of profiles of business leaders. The Germans come out best.

MARTIN WALLER



Selfridges has brought in an agency to create a new image for the store



Notice to customers

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	New interest rate % p.a.	APR%
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Gentle guru still seeking new ways to learn

With a new album out and his autobiography due soon, Ravi Shankar is one busy sitar player. Nigel Williamson reports

There is an aura of serenity about Ravi Shankar that touches all who come within his orbit. When you meet him it is almost tangible, but its power works in less intimate surroundings too: in the humid and sweaty big top at July's annual Womad gathering his mere presence reduced several thousand boisterous, beer-swilling festival-goers to hushed reverence before he had even played a note.

At 77 the world's greatest sitar player is frail — he has suffered two heart attacks — but he moves with an extraordinary grace and maintains a tireless schedule. His friend and musical collaborator Yehudi Menuhin once said that Shankar possessed a "genius and humanity" to rival Mozart, and for more than half a century he has been a peerless ambassador for Indian culture. As a classical purist he has given countless recitals of Indian ragas in the world's greatest concert halls. As an innovative composer he has worked with a diverse range of orchestral, jazz, folk and pop musicians. No one has done more to take the sometimes difficult structures and modes of Indian music to a wider audience.

Although there is little that he has not achieved in a performing career that began before the Second World War, his serenity remains streaked with an endearingly boyish enthusiasm — about the trip he makes to Tokyo next month to receive the Praemium Imperiale, the world's biggest arts prize; about the joys of performing with his 16-year-old daughter Anoushka; and about a new album, *Chants of India*, produced by the former Beatle George Harrison, which Shankar ranks among the most important of his career.

The role of the guru has always had a special importance in Indian culture, hence Shankar's pleasure over the Praemium Imperiale, awarded in recognition of his work in "encouraging the efforts of future generations of artists" — something of far more worth to him than the £90,000 prize.

"Teaching is the final goal of an Indian musician's life," he says. "It is not the same in the West. For us, talent is something that is given to you by your guru and worked at over many years. There are many who are like parrots and sing and

perform all their lives that which they have learnt. Then there are creative people who go on adding to it with new ideas and have the ability to pass it on."

Shankar has established music schools in India and America and is considered the finest teacher of his generation, but he vigorously rejects the description of himself as a master. "I am still learning," he insists. "You can never truly be a master, because music is so endlessly vast. But I have been very lucky to have had many fine students over the years."

At the head of the class stands Anoushka, a precocious sitar player who is already a veteran of the concert platform. "I had a son who

Wood," he says. "Young people liked it but I didn't, because I was steeped in the tradition of the instrument. Gradually I got used to it and I realised that it doesn't matter. You can use an instrument in many different ways."

Not unreasonably, Shankar is keen to point out that he was a respected artist in the West long before he was hanging out with the Beatles and headlining pop festivals. "I was playing the Albert Hall in 1958, and George wasn't there then," he says. "I got there by hard work. There is an excitement in Indian music which has always had an appeal in the West. The speed and virtuosity immediately have an attraction, but that doesn't have a sustaining power. I hope I have also been able to convey a deeper side."

Nevertheless, Shankar accepts that the association with Harrison was responsible for the explosion of interest in Indian music in the late 1960s. "George had good intentions and he meant well. Unfortunately certain things got mixed up. It was the time of revolution, the onslaught of drugs, Vietnam. Everything happened together and it was very chaotic and, in a way, very superficial."

It was a difficult time for Shankar himself, as he struggled to balance the temptations that accompany fame on such a scale with the basic spirituality of his musical approach. "I became a superstar in a pop sense, the raga rock king. I was glad that I was 46 and quite mature, otherwise I would have gone completely haywire. In India I was criticised as if I had sold my music to the devil, but I was trying to keep the sanctity of our music. It took a lot of patience and energy."

Shankar's latest album pushes further at the boundaries of East-West collaboration (he objects to the label "fusion" as insufficiently organic). Using chants based on ancient Sanskrit prayers and mantras, Shankar has created a soundscape that combines classical Indian forms, a choir and Western instrumentation. "It is one of the most hard-working things I ever did," he says. "I wanted to do something that would be different while not losing its Indian quality. I wanted it to be traditional but



Ravi and Anoushka Shankar, his 16-year-old daughter and pupil, have appeared on concert platforms together around the world

universal. George got very excited about it and we added vibraphone and I used harps, violins and cellos in the background, like drones. It's very different from all of my other albums, not least because I haven't used a lot of sitar."

One review suggested Shankar

had created the Indian equivalent of plainsong, and he is not unhappy with the description. "Any music can be exciting on the surface but what stays is something else that touches you deep inside," he says.

For Shankar music remains the ultimate high. "It is not for every-

one. Fame and money and sex can really catch you. So many of our great yogis have fallen like that, and so can musicians. I haven't lived the life of a saint, but I never sold that sacred part of our music. In the 1960s I told everyone that when they came to me to learn they

should come with a clean head, not stoned on drugs, because I could make them high with the power of music."

● *Chants of India* is released by EMI. Ravi Shankar's autobiography *Raga Mala* will be published by Genesis this autumn

To street clothes, add a muffler

ES DEVLIN'S set for British Youth Opera's production of Mozart's comedy consists of a white circle on the Queen Elizabeth Hall stage and 20 typists' chairs with their backs to it, on which the cast sits when not involved in the action. No other furniture, no props, bar a plate for Giovanni's supper. It looks as though the cast have brought their own costumes. The orchestra is upstage behind gauze on which hazy projections play seemingly at random, and the sound is somewhat muted. So the

OPERA
Don Giovanni
Queen Elizabeth Hall

young singers are out there on their own, with neither visible nor, indeed, many audible signs of support.

They do pretty well, and might have done better with more tightly focused direction than Robert Chevara's. The narrative unfolds clearly enough, but the element of class is largely ignored — the

plot does rather hinge on it — and there isn't a lot of mileage to be gained from playing Giovanni as a yob. The peasants look like yuppies slumming it at his party.

A more serious drawback is the varying standard of diction (the Holden translation is used), surprising from a company whose president is Valerie Masterson, one of the great operatic wordsmiths of our time. It is not just a matter of clearly differentiated vowels and crisp consonants, but of thinking the sentences and so conveying their meaning. The

worst offenders are Giovanni and Leporello, on whose verbal interplay so much of the work's spirit depends. But there are some impressive performers. The Ferrier Award winner, Geraldine McGehee, as Donna Anna was tireless and technically secure in both her arias, while Wynne Evans's Ottavio was naturally musical and gracefully shaped. Mark Evans (Masetto) has a warm bass-baritone and is confident. All three sang words as though they meant something.

Mi Tradi, sung by Felicity Hammond (Elvira), went swimmingly, and Anne Bourne (Zerlina) fielded firm, sweet soprano tone, but their words came and went. Vincent Pavesi was a lyrical Commendatore. Graham Jackson's conducting was ploddingly workaday until the last two scenes, which suddenly sprang to life.

RODNEY MILNES

GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament
KATEY CRAWFORD KASTIN

Age: 15

Profession: She acts, she sings, she dances, and has already notched up more than 20 theatre, radio and TV credits. Last month she was Juliet opposite teen heart-throb Sean Maguire's Romeo at the King's Head, NI, where *The Times*'s James Christopher found her "peevish and feisty", hurdling the poetry "with deceptive ease".

Born in the USA: Until she was two she lived in "a very isolated little town in Massachusetts". Then her mother, the artist and writer Stephanie Kastin, moved to London and married Dan Crawford, artistic director of the King's Head. "I was surrounded by actors, writers and directors who made

the theatre seem very enticing. I think it was inevitable that I would start acting."

Debut: Aged four, in a children's musical at the Bloomsbury Theatre. At 11 she played the spastic daughter in *A Day in the Death of Joe Egg*, "the most emotionally draining stage experience I've had". Rose, a villainous pupil in the children's BBC TV drama, *The Demon Headmaster*, followed in 1995.

Training: "On-stage experience is the best way to improve, and I'm not sure I'll try for drama school. Dan has been my greatest teacher, always stressing the same points: stay true to the play, think about what you are saying and listen to the other actors."



Any heroines? "I admire Judi Dench and Maggie Smith, but haven't got role models as such. It might sound pretentious, but I'm trying to find my own way, to do things originally."

Short-term plans: GCSEs at the Royal School, Hampstead, and "a one-woman revue about childhood", which she hopes to stage at the 13th Street Repertory Theatre in New York.

DANIEL ROSENTHAL

Fine singers lift timid orchestra

BBC PROMS

Jephtha
Albert Hall/Radio 3

Jephtha is the story of the Biblical warrior of Israel who makes a rash vow that, if he returns victorious over the Ammonites, he will offer in sacrifice the first being to greet him. This turns out, predictably, to be his own child. And with Joan Rodgers cast in the role of Iphis, his daughter, there was pathos aplenty. Her soprano, in its ripe and perfectly focused prime, was radiant in her doomed declaration of love for Hamor, exquisite in embodying the lute and harp she invoked, and totally compelling at the moment in which she accepts her fate and time seems to stand still.

And that, of course, is exactly what it does. For here, a *deus ex machina*, in the form of Deborah York's golden-voiced Angel, appears miraculously from aloft and offers an alternative to the situation. Hamor, Iphis's betrothed, must stand by and watch her commit herself to a life of virginal dedication: it seemed poor reward for the dramatic and narrative skills of Michael Chance, whose counter-tenor eloquently fo-

cused every changing mood throughout the demanding wide vocal range of his role.

Some of the most powerful singing, though, came from Felicity Palmer as Storgé, wife of Jephtha. Whether murmuring in mellifluous phrase with the turtle dove or railing against her daughter's death, she brought the red blood to the music which, despite Mackerras's spy conducting, the SCO seemed a little afraid to provide. Their playing was all but faultless: but in trying to adopt the elements of period style they did, for much of the time, make the score seem less muscular than it really is.

HILARY FINCH

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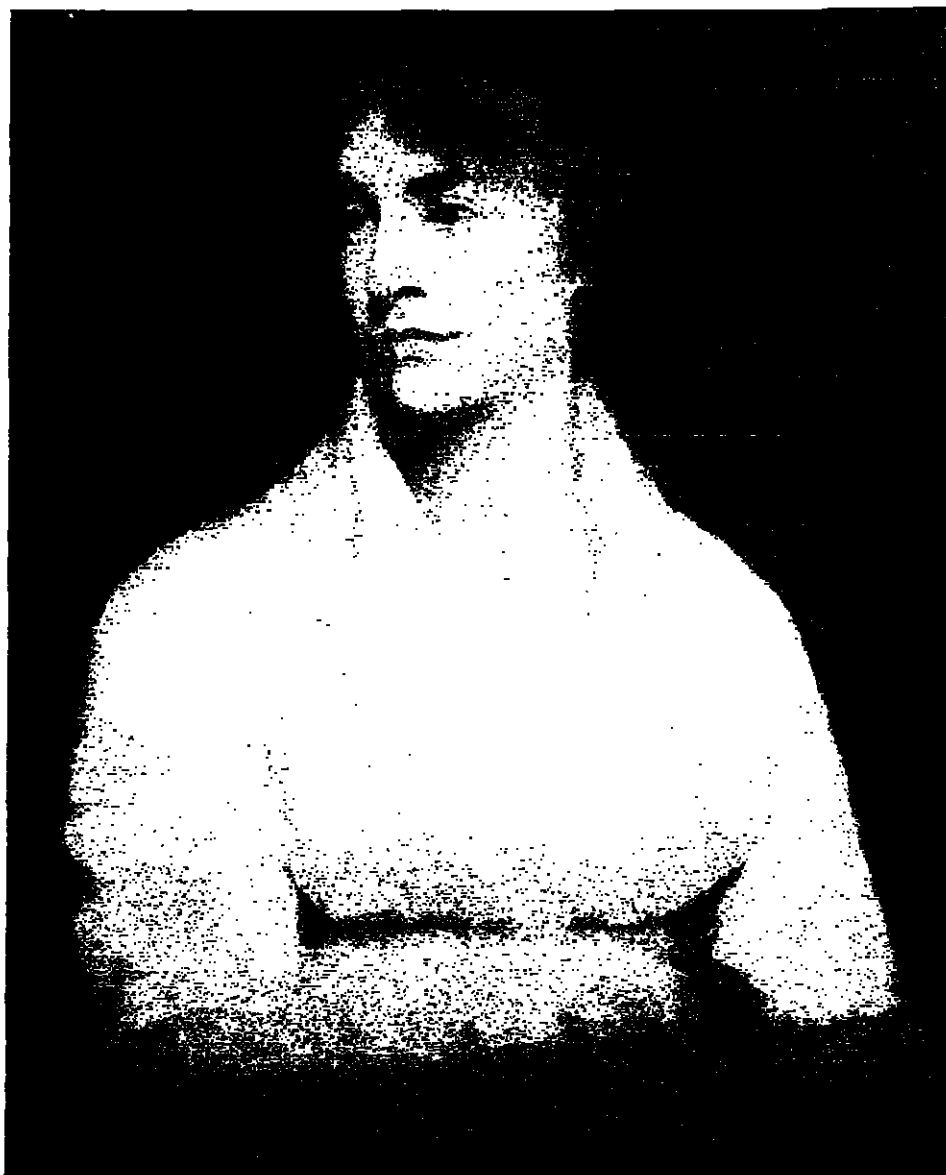
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Judith Chernaik celebrates the lives of two of the most unusual women in English history



Two from the family album: left, Mary Shelley painted by Richard Rothwell in 1840; right, John Opie's 1797 portrait of the mother she never knew, Mary Wollstonecraft

Mary, Mary, both contrary

Mary Godwin Shelley, the author of *Frankenstein*, was born in London 200 years ago, on August 30, 1797. Her mother, Mary Wollstonecraft Godwin, author of *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*, died ten days later, aged 38, in the agony of puerperal fever.

The Wordsworth Museum in Grasmere makes an intimate if unlikely setting for an exhibition (coming to the National Portrait Gallery in London later this autumn) commemorating this double bicentenary, and celebrating the life and works of these two remarkable women. It is called *Hyenas in Petticoats*, a phrase coined by the waspish Horace Walpole to dismiss Wollstonecraft's closely reasoned exposé of "the oppressor, sovereign Man". One would hardly apply the phrase to Mary Shelley, certainly not in the long years of her respectable widowhood, when she wrote four or five potboilers, put her one surviving child through Harrow, and produced a superb edition of Shelley's poems, still in print after 150 years.

But mother and daughter gain in surprising ways from being set side by side, under the benevolent gaze of a portrait of William Godwin, anarchist philosopher, husband of Wollstonecraft and father of the young Mary. They come vividly to

life in the familiar portraits: Wollstonecraft in vaguely Jacobin garb, by John Opie, smiling at a private secret, perhaps her pregnancy; Mary Shelley by Richard Rothwell, unsmiling, in fashionable Victorian décolletage.

Wollstonecraft was part of the group of writers and artists associated with the radical bookseller Joseph Johnson in the 1780s and 1790s: it was at Johnson's dinner table that she met her first love, the painter Henry Fuseli, and her future husband. They are all portrayed in the exhibition, with assorted publications. Between Fuseli and Godwin came an American adventurer Wollstonecraft met in Paris, by whom she had a daughter. Godwin published the full story of the liaison, along with Wollstonecraft's *Letters to Imlay*, soon after her death.

Mary Shelley enjoyed an even more celebrated circle of poets and their paramours, and there are handsome portraits of Byron, Shelley, Leigh Hunt, Claire Clairmont, Teresa Guiccioli (Byron's last mistress), Trelawny, Polidori, and the Greek prince Mavrocordato, along with manuscripts of letters and diaries.

Both women were ardent, adventurous travellers. Here are Wollstonecraft's *Historical and Moral View of the Origin and Progress of the French Revolution*, written in Paris in 1794, as the tumbrels carried her Girondist friends to the guillotine; and her *Letters written during a Short Residence in Sweden, Norway and Denmark* (1796), by-product of a brave attempt to rescue the business affairs of the lover who had twice betrayed her. Mary Shelley's first

publication was *History of a Six Weeks Tour*, a journal of her travels on the Continent in 1814 and 1816, written with Shelley and including his poem *Mont Blanc*; her last published work was *Rambles in Germany and Italy, in 1840, 1842, and 1843*.

The exhibition includes all the writings of these prodigiously gifted women. *Frankenstein* has never been out of print; it was adapted for the stage soon after its publication in 1818, and it continues to enthral readers and to exercise the ingenuity of scholars. Wollstonecraft's *Rights of Woman* was widely read, reprinted, translated and vilified in its time, less so in the Victorian period; it is now firmly established as a classic text for contemporary feminism.

Given the high drama of their lives, it is tempting to see both writers as

key figures of Romanticism. But Wollstonecraft's true allegiances are to the Enlightenment: she believed above all in education as the key to social and political progress.

Mary Shelley, meanwhile, despite or perhaps because of her relation to Shelley, represents a profoundly anti-Romantic backlash. *Frankenstein*, subtitled "The New Prometheus", is a graphic demonstration of scientific hubris brought low, and its moral is essentially conservative. Her works are enjoying an astonishing revival, with the publication of novels long out of print, an expensive facsimile of the manuscript of *Frankenstein* (on open display at the Wordsworth Museum), and university English courses in which *Frankenstein* has displaced the works of Wordsworth, Coleridge, Shelley, Keats and Byron as the central text of the period. This is a development Mary Shelley — no hyena she — would most certainly have deplored.

● The exhibition is at Dove Cottage, Grasmere, Cumbria (015394 35544) until Nov 16, then at the National Portrait Gallery (0171-306 0055) from Nov 28 to Feb 16. The Two Marys, a "dialogue" by Judith Chernaik, is performed by Gayle Hunnicutt and Sasha Hails at the National Portrait Gallery on Sunday, Sept 14 at 1.30pm. A conference devoted to Mary Shelley is being held in Cambridge on Sept 12-14 (details: 01223 362824/363271).

Smashed mirror images

Richard Cork is overwhelmed by Tadashi Kawamata's installations

Not content with taking its premises apart in an ambitious £4 million renovation, the Serpentine Gallery in Hyde Park has now let Tadashi Kawamata loose on materials scavenged from the site. In front of the real building he has erected a strange, troubling installation of his own. Passers-by might easily mistake this melancholy structure for the shattered remains of the gallery itself, and conclude that the Serpentine had been struck by some terminal, seismic cataclysm.

Kawamata's edifice is at its most substantial when viewed from the road. He has positioned several of the old glass-panelled windows in a magisterial row, supported by a carpentered surround of new and recycled wood. Combined with white columnar forms, they make an imposing frontage. But anyone intrepid enough to penetrate the facade, and wander through the rickety rooms behind, quickly realises that they amount to nothing more than a shell.

Securely nailed sections of wall and ceiling contrast with clusters of loose planks, laid across rafters and seemingly about to fall. Tall doors and windows hang surreally in space, lifted off the ground as it slopes downwards. The predominantly pale wood gives way, in places, to timber so dark that it might have been scorched by some devastating fire. Broken roof-vaults point to the sky, aspiring yet useless.

Exploring this series of skeletal spaces, I found myself thinking about the fascination exerted by Britain's great ruined medieval abbeys. On one level, the experience offered by Fountains or Rievaulx is mournful: so much of their architectural magnificence was ruthlessly smashed. But substantial pleasure can be gained from them as well. Their sunlit harmony of stone gradually offsets the initial sense of sadness, just as the warmth of Kawamata's bristling geometry in wood militates against morbidity.

It would be a mistake to see his installation solely in British terms, though. Ever since his first project in his native Japan 18 years ago, Kawamata has worked on building sites with very different characters all over the world. He constructed a wooden bridge walkway between the dazzling new Contemporary Art Museum in Barcelona and the shabbier apartments near by. He placed an apparently ramshackle shelter in a narrow Roman passage, and erected a sprawling timber structure next to a derelict smallpox hospital on Roosevelt Island, New York.

Obsessed with cycles of growth and decay, Kawamata likes to challenge the existing architectural order with subversive additions of his own. On a muddy riverbank in Houston, he built a scattering of huts from scrap material. Juxtaposed ironically with glossy skyscrapers rearing behind, the huts were reminiscent of the slum areas Kawamata had encountered elsewhere in the city.

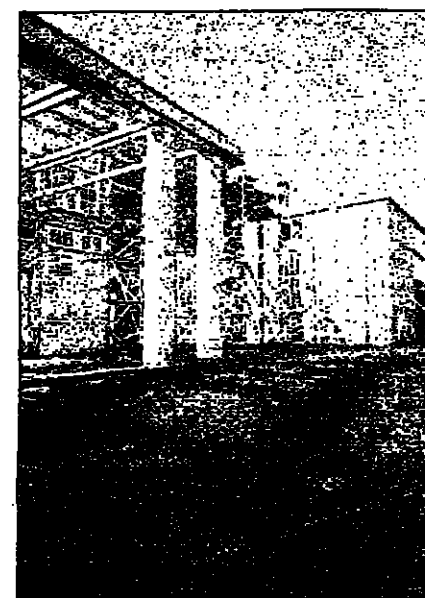
He is not, however, an openly protesting artist. Indeed, he avoids polemical outbursts, choosing to operate more indirectly and poetically. Hence the ambiguous, hard-to-pin-down feelings generated by his Serpentine installation. In some places, it seems to celebrate the faded elegance of the old gallery, a former tea-house in Kensington Gardens. Elsewhere, though, visitors picking their way through Kawamata's broken labyrinth are stopped short by brutally boarded-up sections, devoid of grandeur. A desire to evoke the pleasures of

the past coexists, here, with a more disturbing determination to ram home the inevitability of decay. Kawamata is a far from sentimental artist, and he does not allow us to indulge in a nostalgic reverie for long.

The complexity of his outlook is even more apparent in another installation at Annely Juda Fine Art. In the back room of the upper gallery, he has organised a small show of maquettes for both the London projects. Consummately executed in balsa wood, acrylic and pencil, they are marvels of precision and intricacy. The deftness Kawamata displays here shows just how much rigorous calculation lies behind the apparent haphazardness of the Serpentine structure.

But the virtuosity of his maquettes is far neater and cleaner than the rough, visceral impact of his installations. The main upper space at Annely Juda is normally a haven of white, minimal luminosity, but into this space Kawamata has hoisted a pile of doors and windows salvaged from the Serpentine. Battered and scratched, with splintered glass and rusty hinges, they could hardly be more opposed to the clinical purity of the Juda space.

But Kawamata insisted on joining them together and creating an alternative ceiling, far lower than the original. It surges across the entire room,



Building rubble is made art by Kawamata at the Serpentine Gallery

replacing the high, clean simplicity with a renegade rush of discoloured, obsolete fragments. This hurrying intrusion has an almost apocalyptic impact. It assails our senses immediately we enter, and implies that nothing can ever be safe from sudden, overwhelming attack.

The mood of ambush is intensified by Kawamata's decision to make some of his doors and windows plummet from the ceiling and, apparently, crash through the floor into the showroom below. The Caro sculptures and Hockney paintings displayed down there look disconcerted to find their serene surroundings invaded by this cascade of unruly debris. But Kawamata ensures that these plunging shards of glass and painted timber are shaped into a surprisingly coherent, angular tower. Seen from below, they send light down in an unexpected tunnel of brightness to a lower gallery normally reliant on discreet, artificial illumination.

So the startling aggression of Kawamata's work at Annely Juda is countered, finally, by a sense of delight. However lowslung his temporary "ceiling" may be, it flies across the upper space with effortless élan. Its energy is impressive and, when penetrated by the sun, it casts a lattice-work pattern of shadows on to the gallery's walls and floor, the shadows' movement emphasising Kawamata's preoccupation with the notion of perpetual change.

● Kawamata's installations are at the Serpentine Gallery, London SW2 (0171-723 9072) until Sunday, and Annely Juda, London W1 (0171-629 7578) until Sept 13.

Crown jewels of an eastern kingdom

One of the events at the British Museum in the year 2000 is the opening of a proper, permanent gallery devoted to Korean Art, to be known as the Korea Foundation Gallery. So many things will be happening to mark the millennium, though, that it may get lost in the crush.

Perhaps with this in mind, the museum is offering a delicious foretaste with its show *Arts of Korea*, which hovers somewhere between temporary and permanent: it is to an extent a loan show, but it features many unsuspected treasures from the museum's own collection, which will go from this show directly into the new gallery in three years' time.

No doubt the most immediate attention will go to the principal loan piece, the gold royal crown from the Silla kingdom, which flourished in the 5th and 6th century AD. This civilisation was centred on Kumsong, the "City of Gold", so called in tribute to its thriving sheet gold industry, already famed throughout Asia through the trading of Arab travellers.

The crown, one of the treasures of the National Museum of Korea, is the earliest of six found in royal tombs of the era, and shows great sophistication of design as well as fulfilling all the expected gasp-provoking criteria.

The British Museum is offering an early taste of its planned Korean gallery. John Russell Taylor reports

It looks, as one might imagine, vaguely Chinese. This in fact encapsulates the main problem of perception about Korean art. Poised between two much better-known cultures, Chinese and Japanese, the arts of Korea have in the past remained difficult for Westerners to disentangle and characterise. This exhibition and the gallery of which it is the forerunner should help to sort out any remaining confusions. Korea, it emerges, was the conduit by which Buddhism was transmitted from China to Japan, and much of the earliest Buddhist art in Japan was made by Korean artists who crossed the sea at the same time as the faith they served.

This phase is most vividly illustrated in the gold-and-silver illuminated manuscript of the *Amitabha Sutra*, made by the monk Ch'onggo in 1341, an elegant example of Koryo Buddhist painting which does not look quite either Chinese or Japanese. This is one of the very few examples in the West, as most works of this school are still in Japanese temples and museums.

The Korean ceramics of this period are notable particularly for their extreme refinement of shape, and are backed up by an astonishing array of luxury objects made for use in a court clearly civilised even to the point of decadence.

If this was in fact recognised as a danger, it was counteracted in the 15th century by the adoption of a very rigorous form of Confucianism, and the consequent persecution of more libertarian Buddhism. Something of this new spirit may be gauged in the fine 18th-century portrait of a Confucian scholar, one of many official portraits which became a Korean speciality, along with the so-called "Real Place" landscapes, which reacted away from the idealisation and conventionalisation of

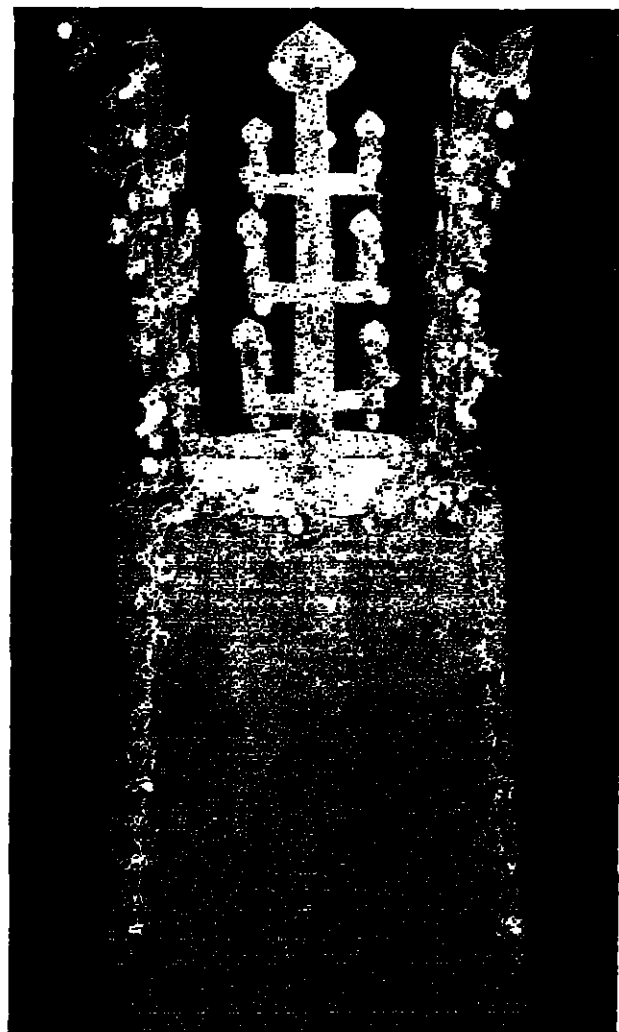
contemporary Chinese landscapes with a strict attention to the observation of nature and outside reality.

Korea was lucky among East Asian nations in that it enjoyed a lengthy period of relatively stable rule under the Choson dynasty, which was in power from 1392 to 1910. Though China remained in various ways culturally influential, Korea soon developed an approach of its own, while the influences between Korea and Japan flowed almost entirely in the direction of Japan. Among the Choson ceramics shown here are several examples of rice-bowls made in Korea, imported into Japan, where they were much admired, and repaired with Japanese gold lacquer.

It is also generally forgotten that Korea was the earliest place in the world to use movable metal types (in 1234), and the British Library, which has collaborated on this exhibition, contributes some remarkable early printed books, as well as stunning illustrated manuscripts.

The exhibition may be only a foretaste, but it gives us time to get used to the special qualities of Korean art, without sating the appetite before the main course arrives on the table.

● British Museum, Great Russell Street, WC1 (0171-636 1555) supported by the Samsung Foundation of Culture, until 2000



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Theatre for the Nation

Susan MacDonald on two reports that highlight the changing technical role of secretaries and company attitudes towards them

New skills in demand

The role of secretaries is clearly changing and expanding dramatically. It is being given a whole new dimension and this, in some cases but not all, is changing the way in which bosses view them. But what do secretaries feel about these changes? Two surveys published today, one by the Secretarial Development Network (SDN) and one by Reed Employment, give an insight into what is happening and what is needed.

An almost unanimous proportion — 98 per cent — of those questioned in the SDN survey say what most secretaries already know — that their role now needs strong technical and interpersonal skills. This overwhelming need for technical skills is borne out in the Reed Employment survey, which looks at how the role of the secretary has adapted during the 1990s.

The SDN has about 100 members, including secretaries, executive secretaries, PAs and people in personnel, human resources and line managers. All have an active interest in developing the secretarial role.

SDN's survey shows that just 30 per cent of its members believe that a secretary's role offers good development opportunities. However, 77 per cent believe that a secretary's job is changing for the better and 82 per cent think the job is becoming increasingly professional.

The Reed survey, which concentrates on technology, is based on the

questioning of 201 secretaries and finds that the project management and administration part of a secretary's job has grown over the past five years along with its technological content.

It looks at the amount of information a secretary must acquire in order to keep up with the pace of technological development and finds that senior secretaries during the 1990s have gained an in-depth knowledge of an average of four technical skill areas. Almost a third — 31 per cent — say that they invest time learning or upgrading at least three skills each year. Thirty-one per cent know how to use the Internet, 79 per cent are expert in using a spreadsheet package, 77 per cent have an in-depth understanding of presentation packages and 71 per cent can use databases.

Half have mastered desktop publishing and 62 per cent use e-mail. Some secretaries are taking on the role of information technology staff trainers as well as their other responsibilities, from instructing colleagues to helping a boss to understand the new executive laptop.

Increasingly, senior secretaries are responsible for managing entire databases and other IT projects and, logically, some are involved in the purchasing decisions for new IT systems. On the traditional — now known as the "softer" skills — side, 81 per cent undertake report writing, 80 per cent do shorthand, 79 per cent take minutes — and 24 per cent are

fluent in one or more foreign languages.

Notwithstanding this fine array of skills, the SDN survey finds that 58 per cent of their members say that the secretarial role is not respected by most managers and 60 per cent believe that organisations do not see that the development of the secretarial role is intrinsic to organisational success.

Sue Cookson, a PA at ICI Chemicals & Polymers, says: "Secretaries need to take more responsibility for their own development and seize opportunities to add value to their role. The future role of a secretary is that of a multi-skilled, business-orientated professional."

It would seem that some senior secretaries are already there, but as Kathryn Moir, senior personnel officer at the University of Southampton, explains: "The positioning of a secretary's role varies according to the head of department involved. It should be seen as a key role in the organisation — but that is not always the case."

James Reed, chief executive of Reed Employment Services, paints a glowing picture. "Modern secretaries are technological experts, as well as communicators and project managers," he says. "They are at the forefront of technological change and work hard to update their own skills to keep on top of IT development. Increasingly, employers are recognising just how valuable this role as technological expert and trainer is, and

are beginning to reward their senior secretaries accordingly."

Freda Gardiner, SDN's chairwoman, looks at the other side of the coin. "Many organisations are risking failure in an increasingly competitive global market by not incorporating secretarial development into their development strategy or by failing to communicate their strategy to the secretarial workforce."

Her warning to executives is that managers who do not develop the secretarial role will not maximise the potential of their own role.

Giovanna Pullen, who is temping for an insurance broking firm in the City, says that secretaries have to wear a lot more hats these days. "Some of the skills we are now expected to know are beyond the scope of a strictly secretarial role and are in the area of backup support."

After many years of temping, she finds that bosses either have some degree of computer literacy or they won't even turn on their machines. "If they cannot even field their own e-mail," she says, "it puts an even heavier work load on their secretaries."

"In my present job I need Word, PowerPoint and Excel. It's interesting but also exhausting, and I still believe that an array of IT skills is not enough. A secretary cannot be turned into a robot. You still need good organisational and communication skills — and the ability to smile certainly helps."



Giovanna Pullen: "Some of the skills we know are in the area of backup support"

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The Ski Company, undisputed leader in luxury skiing holidays, is looking for a limited number of outstanding couples to manage its five star chalets in the Alps, Winter and Summer.

For the right people, we offer an exceptional opportunity for career advancement, your reward employment and the benefits of running your own chalet, within the framework of a young, successful and expanding company. Terms and remuneration are excellent.

You will preferably be aged between 25 and 40, with the ambition to run your own business in the future. One of you must have excellent cooking skills and one of you must speak either French or German. You must be pleasant, outgoing, hospitable, generous and friendly, with a sense of professional pride.

For a brochure and application form, please write, enclosing your CV, to: Tony Elliot, The Ski Company, Skane Square House, Holborn Place, London WC1W 8NS.

GENERAL DENTAL COUNCIL

Secretary to the Finance and Services Director

Varied work in the changing environment of the small but busy Central London office of this regulatory authority.

The ideal candidate will have good word processing and audio skills using Microsoft Office 97, as well as good organisational skills and the discretion to deal with personnel issues.

Full details and an application form (to be returned by 17 September) may be obtained from Kerry Leadbetter, General Dental Council, 27 Wimpole Street, London W1M 8BZ, tel: 0171 486 2171.

INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE SEARCH

TYPIST/OFFICE ASSISTANT

Busy headhunting firm currently based in Kingston but shortly moving to the City, seeks a hard-working, cheerful person to join our lively team. We need someone who is quick and accurate who will provide typing and general office support. Familiarity with Word/Perfect and Windows 95 desirable and experience of a database would be useful but we will train you. Languages not necessary but of interest. Salary negotiable.

Please call Sue Rider or Liz Gosney on 0181 546 0990.

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Dynamic, energetic team player for full-time PA to MD position in rapidly expanding & successful organisation. This is a varied role and you will:

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- be computer literate: W4W & 5.5 wpm essential
- preferably have background in HR/PR.

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£28,000 package

An exciting opportunity has arisen to join this well known organisation during a period of extensive growth. Working as PA to the newly appointed Chairman, your role will involve extensive communication at the highest level, organising international travel

itineraries and the management of a hectic diary. The successful candidate must be a team player, immaculately presented and have a minimum of five years' experience. Shorthand 90/50 typing. Please call our West End office now.

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As a woman

DYNAMIC TEAM SECRETARY

£20,000 + OT + Bens

This lively department of a leading American Bank is looking for a secretary to work for two Directors. Duties are extremely varied and include diary management, organising travel, client liaison as well as preparing presentations. Good knowledge of Word and Powerpoint or Freelance required.

Please contact Margaret Sorohan.

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No. 1 New Street, London EC2M 4TP
Tel: 0171 623 1266 Fax: 0171 626 5259

TEMPORARY GRADUATE SECRETARY/ASSISTANT

NEW BUSINESS GROUP ADMINISTRATOR

A 1996/7 graduate with a finance related degree together with 6 months banking/finance experience urgently required by a well known US Bank. The position will require secretarial skills together with strong administration and organisational skills. This role is ideally suited to someone looking to develop a career in securities, futures & options.

Immediate start

Call Debra Berry.

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TRADING FLOOR BUZZ!!!

£20,000 + MS + Bonus

This extremely dynamic young team of traders urgently require a secretary to assist them with their every day to day duties. This will incorporate extensive travel co-ordination and client contact. The ideal will have banking experience and a strong, confident personality.

Please contact Melinda Marks.

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JUNIOR SECRETARY
Set first jobs, good telephone manner and typing skills essential. Property Management Department based in Chelsea, Used Company benefits, with salary to be agreed. Please telephone Douglas & Gordon on 0171 586 5405

PA to Chairman & Chief Executive
£20K
Exciting national project seeks dynamic PA. Must have experience at senior PA level. Closing date 15/9 Interviews 19/9 p.m. Further information from Abigail Tarron Tel: 0171 930 5115 Ext 239

INVITATION
To interview for a position of Junior Secretary. The successful candidate will be responsible for a variety of administrative tasks, including diary management, travel arrangements, and client liaison. We offer a competitive salary, excellent benefits, and a supportive working environment.

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£10K + Superb Bens
Jump to the front of the queue for your second job! It's getting busy after the summer lull and this particular client can offer you not only involvement, super work colleagues and excellent office but also boasts exceptional benefits including an in-house gym, swimming pool and free lunches. If you have 2 years secretarial experience, 40wpm typing combined with advanced WP skills, don't delay, call today!

BOYS, BUCKS AND BOLLING!
Use your Rusty Shorthand £20K + Full Banking Bens
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SHALL and friendly IT consultancy based in Covent Garden has vacancies for a PA/Administrator to provide administrative and sales support to MD. Duties will involve preparing CVs, dealing with clients and consultants, database updates, arranging interviews and preparing contracts. Must have 3 years office experience in PA or administrative role, employed skills (Word preferred), responsible attitude and attention to detail. Salary £10K p.a.

Please send CV and covering letter to: Alex Wills, Methods Application Ltd, 39 King Street, London WC2E 8JS, tel: 0171 240 1211, fax: 0171 379 8561 email: wills@methods.co.uk

WEST HAMPSHIRE HOUSING ASSOCIATION
Personal Assistant
£16,261 - £19,155 p.a.

This is a new post working to the Chief Executive and the Personnel Manager. You will have at least 2 years' administrative experience at executive level as well as experience of personnel work. You will be able to work on your own initiative and handle sensitive information confidentially and sensitively. Fast accurate typing and computer literacy is essential.

If you would like further information and an application pack, please send a postcard giving your name and address and the post you are interested in to: The Personnel Section, West Hampshire Housing Association, 1-2 Grangeway, London NW6 2BT.

CVs will not be accepted.
Closing date: 16/9/97
Interview date: 22/9/97

TRAINING PA-£30-35,000

A rare opportunity has arisen for an outstanding PA, whose abilities and presence command respect, to join the Managing Director of a major IT Training Company operating throughout Europe and the USA. Your track record will identify you as a person who can make an individual contribution to the success of a business together with flair and dedication, will be rewarded with a stimulating role second to none. Age-early thirties, skills 100/70.

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DIRECTORS' SECRETARIES

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PR consultant, (near Oxford Circus), requires Secretary/PA, experienced on Apple/MS Word for reports, releases, correspondence etc. Also responsible for photo library, press contacts, bookings, bookings, general admin, and housekeeping. Good presentation, accuracy and telephone manner essential. Should enjoy working in 2-person environment, and needs to be helpful, supportive and reliable. Excellent opportunity for the PA. Business and sales on executive responsibilities due to growth. Salary £17,000 per annum. CV to: Christopher Wright, W24 Westwood Lane, Uxbridge, Middlesex, Uxbridge, Tel: 0171 634 2252, Fax: 0171 634 2252.

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£22,000
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The company: Working for one of the top 100 law firms in the City

The role: Partner's PA position involving litigation work and full PA duties.

The essentials: Legal/litigation experience, excellent secretarial/PA skills, professional and organised - most importantly a sense of humour!

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get out OF town
£18,000
GORDON-YATES

The company: A young and progressive IT Marketing company based in Buckinghamshire

The role: A superb opportunity working as PA to two senior Executives, lots of responsibility, variety and progression.

The essentials: Excellent secretarial skills, IT literate, bright, professional with a fun character! European language useful.

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hold your own
£18K to £20K
GORDON-YATES

The company: A small and successful Property Holdings Company based in SW1.

The role: Involving and varied PA/Administrator role for someone with the initiative and motivation to work autonomously and often alone, juggling numerous projects.

The essentials: W4W 6 and 50wpm and numeracy. A self motivated, enthusiastic approach.

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City Office: Tel: 0171 263 4884 Fax: 0171 263 4885

Hays Recruitment

PA to Chairman
(Cantonese-speaking)

City To £40,000 + Car + Lucrative Benefits

The Company

Friends Specialist Cleaning Company Ltd is part of a dynamic and diverse conglomerate with worldwide interests. With a turnover of £57.5m for this company alone, and ambitious growth plans well in place, it is an organisation with a fantastic future. Having just secured prestigious new premises, an unparalleled opportunity has arisen for an exceptional PA, based in the heart of the City of London.

The Role

Working solely alongside the Chairman, you will provide invaluable support to the driving force of this unique company. Besides managing a hectic schedule and attending every key and confidential meeting at board level, you will be expected to keep abreast of all the workings of some ten different group companies.

As you would expect from an international company, travel opportunities are extensive, with at least one week per month spent overseas. Most frequently, you will visit South East Asia, but also the United States, Russia and Western Europe. You will also be responsible for the hiring and supervision of a secretary to support the Chairman. As proposed expansion continues, you will co-ordinate the recruitment and management of two additional clerical and support staff.

The Opportunity

In accordance with this high level appointment, the successful applicant will have excellent organisational and communication skills. Dedication to the role is essential - with highly outstanding rewards. Fluency in Cantonese is a prerequisite, and ability in other European languages is a bonus. You should possess the tact and integrity required of someone party to key board level decisions. You should also possess superb presentation and interpersonal skills and have the strength of personality to be credible at all levels.

To apply for this incredible opportunity, please write with your CV to our recruitment advisor Martin Dixon at Hays Recruitment, 141 Moorgate, London EC2M 6TX. All applications will be treated in the strictest confidence and direct applications will be forwarded to Hays Recruitment.

Hays
THE RECRUITMENT GROUP

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Personal Career Assistance for Executive Secretaries

PA to Senior Partner
Country Houses
Prestigious West End Property Co.
IFSTL, Profit Related Pay, Pension Scheme

A high profile role for a top PA. This position is very varied and encompasses a huge amount of organisational and highly confidential administrative work. Deal with your own projects and client liaison. Become closely involved with the PR and marketing departments. This would suit an ambitious, young secretary. Age 20+, shorthand preferred.

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Email: roc@roc.co.uk Website: www.roc.co.uk

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£23,000 + benefits

Professional private practice numbering 120 staff and located at Blackfriars now wish to appoint an Assistant to the Office Manager. The role will be involved in all aspects of personnel and administration functions of the firm as directed by the Office Manager. A strategic role with primary responsibility for the supervision of secretarial and support staff. The successful candidate will demonstrate strong IT skills in order to assist support staff in a WordPerfect for Windows environment. Other key responsibilities will involve staff recruitment, liaising with agencies reviewing CVs, interviewing and testing candidates. The ideal candidate will be aged 25+ have progressive experience of personnel/administration ideally within a professional partnership environment.

For further enquiries please contact Joe Nelson at Career Legal Ltd, Moor House, 119 London Wall, London EC2Y 5ET or telephone him on 0171 628 7117.

SECRETARY/PA
for
INSURANCE BROKERS
Near London bridge, with computer skills, for general personal/commercial business.
Salary £15,000
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A small group operations Director (mid 30s) at his truly British yet international company. A very project oriented position for a level headed person with top of personality, Good secretarial skills etc.
Call Sam at St James's Consultancy 0171 580 1085

P.A. to Senior Consultant
for small but elite
Organisation Consultants
& Business Psychologists
c. £18,000 + profit share

The ideal applicant will be educated to at least O level standard, have 2 years senior secretarial experience, a confident telephone manner, be self-reliant, forward-thinking and have good organisational skills. Additionally, the ability to produce complicated presentation materials to tight deadlines is essential. Knowledge of MSWord 6 and PageMaker 6 is a prerequisite. Excel, MSPowerpoint or similar package would be useful. The applicant would also be responsible for a 2nd consultant once recruited.

Please apply in writing to Lesley Fayers, Kiddy & Partners, 43 Welbeck Street, London W1M 7HF
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Fax:
0171 782 7586

GRADUATE to £24,000

Exciting opportunity to join a financial company in this challenging role, responding to clients enquiries, conducting research and developing new marketing materials. Must be highly numerate and bilingual in French or German. Powerpoint 40wpm.

Please telephone 0171 628 9529.
Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

COMPLIANCE £24,000

Assisting this very legal executive you will have your own areas of responsibility and involvement with projects. Routine secretarial support and daily office management. Experience in the financial sector an advantage. 55wpm typing. Windows packages.

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Please telephone 0171 495 2321.
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West End based blue chip company need a professional presentable receptionist for front line role. Lots of meeting and greeting and ad hoc projects. Switchboard and keyboard skills required.

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Please telephone 0171 495 2321.
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A rare opportunity for a PA in a famous exclusive luxury goods company. The role will be very involved with duties ranging from confidential PA tasks to helping with the development of new products and assisting the PR and advertising departments. Would suit someone who is interested in antiques, museums and art and who has a full computer literate and have a stable work record.

Please fax or send CVs to Juliette Wood
JFL
47 New Bond St, London W1Y 9HA
Tel: 0171-493 8824 Fax: 0171-493 7161
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£20,000 PA Travel & Benefits

An ideal opportunity for an experienced secretary who likes to be busy, use their initiative & have certain responsibilities of their own, but still likes to get away on time, to join this West-End multinational within the finance department. Responsible for a director & small team, you will use Powerpoint & other MS office packages extensively as well as looking after all departmental administration. 60 typing

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E-mail: rbeard@tate.co.uk Website: http://www.tate.co.uk

Recruit Employment Services

PA SEC £17,500 NW5
An excellent opportunity for an experienced legal secretary within a professional, dynamic legal firm. This challenging and varied role involves the day-to-day running of the office. Candidates must have 10 wpm copy and audio WPS.

SENIOR SEC £20,000 SW1
25 Days Hols, Cost. Pens, Sub Rest, Gym, Share Options, Life Ass.
An expanding international company requires a secretary to group finance. A highly responsible role to assist the Managing Director. A team player would fit well into this friendly organisation.

Contact Lynne Marshall-Dunn
64 Jermyn Street, London W1M 8BN Tel: 0171 493 8122 Fax: 0171 493 8115

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PARAS

Paras Limited is an international management consultancy with offices in the UK and South Africa. We offer consultancy services to large corporations all over the world, concentrating on business strategy formulation, information management and environmental services. We are opening a London office and are seeking an

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

The suitable candidate is a graduate or a person with extensive experience of office administration and a dynamic team-player. You are good at meeting deadlines and thrive under pressure. A strong, mature personality to generate ideas should be coupled with top-notch secretarial and organisational skills. You enjoy taking responsibility and using your initiative. You are committed to providing top quality service to our clients.

Your tasks involve fast and accurate production of documents and correspondence, and co-ordination of office administration of a small but extremely busy office of up to ten consulting specialists. You are thoroughly familiar with Windows95 and MS Office and its main applications, office e-mail and internet systems, with an appetite to further develop your skills in Information Technology.

For further information, contact Mrs Tania Molman.

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Specialising in luxury yacht charter and brokerage has a vacancy for a

SECRETARY/ RECEPTIONIST

Position would suit a mature applicant with enthusiasm, flexibility and sound secretarial and administrative skills.

CV and handwritten letter to Box No 7199

(No agencies)

PURCHASING MANAGER

Expanding retail order company seeks purchasing manager. Fluency in Italian of French required. Attention to detail and strong organisational skills essential. Experience in customer and business relations an advantage. Knowledge of MS Word and Excel helpful.

This crucial manager is responsible for ordering products, monitoring deliveries and maintaining good working relationships with a large number of international suppliers. He or she also assists in the preparation of new orders of the retail order catalogue.

Please reply in writing with CV to:
Managing Director
Director/Marketing (Mail Order) Limited
Unit 21, The Coda Centre, 189 Munster Road
London SW6 6AW

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Established exhibition organisers launching a major new sports consumer event in 98 need enthusiastic admin assistant to join their team.

Ideally suited to a confident young self-starter, r/s with good WP skills (Microsoft Office). Good communication skills and proven admin experience essential and a keen interest in sport would be an advantage.

Please send CV and daytime telephone number in confidence to:
The Managing Director
Barker Brown Limited
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London W1N 5AD
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Of rapidly growing quoted Public Property Company in attractive Mayfair offices.

The successful candidate will have excellent skills. Windows 95, Word and audio capability essential. Previous property/legal experience would be useful. Must be prepared to cope with periods of heavy workload and extended hours. Salary £22,000 p.a.

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PA TO HEAD OF COMMUNICATIONS £22,000

Excellent opportunity for a PA with a large well known publishing house. Duties include dealing with the media, liaising with editors, publishers and organising meetings. Department is hectic but a friendly and fun place to be. Must be a first class and efficient PA with at least 3 years' experience. Have superb secretarial skills and have shorthand.

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47 New Bond St, London W1Y 9HA
Tel: 0171-493 8824 Fax: 0171-493 7161
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Personal Assistant to CEO

WITH OFFICE MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES

circa £25k

You are a lively, proactive, experienced PA used to using your own initiative supporting an innovative and busy Chief Executive. You enjoy building relationships; have excellent secretarial skills; consider your work both important and fun and always aim for perfection.

You have an excellent command of written & spoken English; are a mature professional; self motivated with a sense of fun; highly efficient with a good knowledge of Lotus SmartSuite. You have a minimum of 10 years' experience in secretarial/PA work and are used to working to deadlines on your own initiative.

Our client, the Chief Executive of a £multi-million plc based at a prestigious Headquarters needs a Personal Assistant to support him. There is no travel involved but flexibility is essential.

This is a rare opportunity to work with a distinguished CEO of a pre-eminent company in an exciting and growing market.

Written applications only with CV to: Raymond Walley, Success Dynamics Int. Ltd, c/o 20 Trumper Way, Cedar Park, Clippensham, Berks. SL1 5EY.

Closing date for applications: 15th September 1997.

SUCCESS DYNAMICS

Improving the way
people work together

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INTERNATIONAL LIMITED

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EXEC PA to MD

Circa £18-20K

Required for fast growing Design Management Co. With international base chip High Tech client base. Must be well organised, have MS Office experience, to provide hands-on support for current client base and new business.

Prof Age 25-35
CVs to N. Elmer, DBS
31 Charles Wharf
15 Lisle Road
London SW10 0JL

MATURE SEC/ASST to MD

Required by young dynamic sports hospitality business. Good organisational skills essential. Need for 100% accuracy. Ability to work under pressure with tight deadlines. Starting salary £18K. Unique opportunity to grow your role by positive input.

CV to William Turner, Grandstand Hospitality Ltd, 11 Barington St, Mayfair, London W1X 8BU

SECRETARY in FINANCIAL

PERMANENT. £15,000 p.a. 30 hrs/week. Degree level education essential with 6 months experience. Excellent opportunity for a motivated person in a dynamic business. CV to: 111 St. James Street, London, W1A 1AB.

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REGAN AND DEAN + ADLAND

ENTERTAINMENT GROUP - PA to MD. Someone diplomatic and very organised is needed to undertake a full and demanding PA role within a high profile media environment. £22,000 p.a. TV NETWORK - SECRETARY/ADMINISTRATOR. Excellent communication skills and a flexible attitude is needed for a new joint venture between PR and a major TV company. £18,000 p.a. A very varied position incorporating project and event management, brochure design and programme production. £18,000 p.a. RECEPTIONISTS AND YOUNG SECRETARIES. Ad Agencies, Design, TV, Film, Music and PR Cos all need some relevant experience, bright personalities and excellent presentation. £12,000-£18,000 p.a. Many many TEMP to PERM opportunities. Tel: 0171 409 3244 Fax: 0171 409 7430

City 14-14K

Growing City Investment firm requires young, organised, computer literate individual for a secretarial/admin. position. Skills 60/60, computer packages: Word, Excel, Access, languages would be a bonus.

Pay according to skills and previous experience. Great career opportunities for the right person. Must have a sense of humour and an ability to work under pressure. Please telephone Victoria/Widley on 0171 389 1508, or fax your CV to 0171 389 1501.

CENTRE POINT GROUP

BANKING AND SECRETARIAL RECRUITMENT SPECIALISTS

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

£26,000

Telephone:
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Crème de la Crème

INTERNATIONAL PROSPECTS • DYNAMIC

£21,000

This fast-paced international company is seeking a Secretary/PA. Annual salary will involve international business at all levels and will require confidence, maturity and flexibility. Your successful nature and ongoing mind will ensure that the least systems are in place. Graduate recruitment will be one of your many responsibilities and your ability to juggle numerous priorities, combined with excellent organisational skills will be fully utilised. You will be numeric and IT literate with a proven secretarial background. Experience in Human Resources within a large organisation is preferable. W4W, Excel, PowerPoint and 50wpm typing.

Committed to equal opportunities

0171 814 0800

Angela Mortimer

INTERNATIONAL CONSULTANTS

£20,000 Package

An outstanding opportunity exists in a leading international firm of Management Consultants in Central London. Working alongside 1-2 teams of Consultants you will be the lynch pin and focal point, liaising extensively with clients as well as having sole responsibility for presentations. Strong interpersonal skills, commitment and the ability to prioritise your workload in a challenging and pressured environment are essential. You are likely to be of graduate calibre with solid experience of using graphics packages. You will have 50 wpm typing and a knowledge of W4W and PowerPoint. Please call us now.

Committed to equal opportunities

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PARTNERS SECRETARY E17 - 18K

Benefits include: up to 25 days Holiday, PRP, Health Care, Pension and in-house restaurant

A superb opportunity to use your first class secretarial skills working for this Blue Chip International Company based in the City.

You will be required to provide secretarial and administrative support on a 1:1 basis for this highly successful, dynamic partner.

If you are keen to be very much involved in a busy professional environment, and are able to work to tight deadlines and use your initiative this is the job for you.

The ideal candidate will have 4 yrs + secretarial experience with a full understanding of W4W, Excel, PowerPoint, 50 wpm typing and possess at least 5 GCSE's.

Please Call Mary on 0171 720 7595

PA in PR £25,000 p.a.

A high profile environment, where your social skills, charm and organisational ability will be essential to thrive in assisting a much in demand M.D. who happens to be a dream to work for. 24 years, plus senior level experience.

Mayfair Admin £18,000 p.a.

This thriving agency which deals with leading staff for the rich and famous need an administrator with flair. Mountain of paper and this person to remain one step ahead, use initiative, problem-solve and ensure systems are maintained. Lovely environment, lovely people!

JOYCE GUINNESS PARTNERSHIP

0171 589 8807

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

Knightsbridge Career Move!

£15,000 p.a.

Business is booming in our recruitment agency and we need a bright, enthusiastic graduate/college leaver, who can jump in at the deep end and assist in running a busy temp desk, plus general support to the team. Scope for the right person. To apply you need 40 wpm typing, W4W, min 5 months exp. exp. plus interview.

Young PA £17,000 p.a.

We have a fun West End client, who needs an enthusiastic 2nd jobber to look after their social life. You will need good administration and reasonable typing, not to mention an excellent person manner and of course a sense of humour. Immediate start.

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RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

EXPERIENCED

Secretary required to provide general administrative support to a busy professional in a leading international company. The ideal candidate will have 5+ years experience in a similar role, with excellent organisational skills and a proven ability to manage a large volume of correspondence. Salary £18,000 p.a. plus benefits. Please call 0171 584 7020.

CONTACT CHARLES

PODNEY 0171 584 7020

TRI LINGUAL PA TO MD

English/French/Italian (fluency not essential)

Circa £60,000 Company Car plus excellent fringe benefits including £1000k free air travel.

MD of highly successful Financial Insurance Group requires a superbly efficient 'right hand' organisational person.

* MUST have excellent shorthand and word processing skills.

* Love flying (private jet).

* Be a confident communicator.

* Basic accounting skills.

Hours are flexible and often long through weekends are expected to be your own returning to London Friday evening.

This is a fabulous opportunity for a switched on individual to enjoy a hardworking yet rewarding career position.

Please apply in writing to:

HUMAN RESOURCE ASSOCIATES

Box No 7057
Ref LAN/120
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EXECUTIVE SECRETARY TO EUROPEAN VICE PRESIDENT

to £21,000

European HQ

Uxbridge

Located in beautiful surroundings close to Uxbridge, Greenway, a subsidiary of British-Mys Squibb, is a leader in the manufacture and sale of health care products.

They currently require a pro-active and confidential shorthand secretary with WordPerfect, Proforma and Lotus 123 skills to fully support a European Vice President in a wide variety of tasks including coordination of meetings preparation of reports and liaison with all levels of internal and external contacts.

Experience in a European management environment is essential as you will act as co-ordinator for European exhibitions from initiation to completion. Some European travel is involved so a second language would be desirable.

If this sounds like you and you can commit time and effort to the position, please send your CV to a progressive company with an excellent benefits package, please call our recruitment consultant.

Maggie de Sales
Uxbridge Greenway Agency
4 Windsor Street, Uxbridge
Middlesex, UB8 3AB or phone on 01895 257045
CV's can be faxed to: 01895 274104

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Hiring immediately:

Executive Secretaries for Temporary Assignments.

Applicants must have excellent typing and computer skills, legal experience &/or shorthand a definite asset. Min. 6 years secretarial experience.

Renewable one-year work permits. Permanent positions available after six months temping, with start salary of US\$30,000+.

Please fax your resume to (441) 295-1495, attn: Jody Joblin.

Interviewing in London shortly. For more information, please include return confidential fax number.

PA/SECRETARY £22K LONDON, SW1

A great opportunity for young PA/Sec with excellent communication and computer skills. The successful candidate will report to a busy executive and be involved with various projects. Ability to work on initiative is essential as is being one step ahead at all times.

Fax CV to 0171 235 0694

JNR/TEAM SECS City £12 - 18k

20 days holiday, Performance Related Pay, Overtime, Car Allowance & more

Fantastic opportunities in a top Blue Chip company await junior & team secretaries. If you are in your early 20's with either 2+ yrs secretarial experience or have been to secretarial college and have 50+ wpm typing, word for word, you could be for you. Our client powerpoint this could be for you. Our client need bright, polished young people who are well spoken and presented with 5 GCSE's or equivalent. If you fit this description and want genuine career opportunities call Mary Pearce NOW on 0171 220 7575

£21,000 + 5 WEEK HOLS!

SH/PERSONAL ASSISTANT TO MD PUBLISHING HOUSE

This very exciting role calls for an intelligent, commercially focused PA. 2+ yrs previous experience working at senior level to assist dynamic young MD of fast moving publishing house. High admin cannot include organising diary, quarterly/bi-monthly board meetings, legal liaisons and briefing executives. Some project work plus social secretarial responsibilities. W4W plus presentation on PowerPoint/Proforma. This is a great chance to be totally involved where your input will be welcomed! Please call Sandy or fax cv to:

Rainbow Recruitment
12 South Molton Street, London, W1V 1DF
Tel: 0171 491 7152 Fax: 0171 491 2887

ADMINISTRATIVE CREME

PROPERTY An expanding property company in Chelsea requires an experienced and motivated person to take on a position of property management. The ideal candidate will have 5+ years experience in a similar role, with excellent organisational skills and a proven ability to manage a large volume of correspondence. Salary £18,000 p.a. plus benefits. Please call 0171 584 7020.

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Are you looking for a good training and social life? This prestigious company is seeking a motivated and energetic person to take on a position of property management. The ideal candidate will have 5+ years experience in a similar role, with excellent organisational skills and a proven ability to manage a large volume of correspondence. Salary £18,000 p.a. plus benefits. Please call 0171 584 7020.

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RECEPTION

RECEPTIONIST required to work 4.00 pm - 9.00 pm. The ideal candidate will have 5+ years experience in a similar role, with excellent organisational skills and a proven ability to manage a large volume of correspondence. Salary £18,000 p.a. plus benefits. Please call 0171 584 7020.

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NEGOTIATOR

Enthusiastic, ambitious junior Lettings negotiator required to join our busy team.

Please call 0181 940 4555

16 Kew Green
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ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT/BOOKKEEPER

Required for small conference and association management company in Kensington. A well-organised, experienced person who can take on a position of administrative support. The ideal candidate will have 5+ years experience in a similar role, with excellent organisational skills and a proven ability to manage a large volume of correspondence. Salary £18,000 p.a. plus benefits. Please call 0171 584 7020.

CONTACT CHARLES

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FIRST CREME

Due to expansion a busy brokerage Co. based in Mayfair requires

OFFICE JUNIOR/RECEPTIONIST

This job would suit College leaver/first jobber. You will need to have excellent communication, typing and presentation skills with a mature attitude to work.

Duties are varied and will require sound typing and computer literacy in Excel and W4W 6 package.

Tel: Claire on 0171 499 3311

SUPER SECRETARIES

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RECEPTIONIST required to work 4.00 pm - 9.00 pm. The ideal candidate will have 5+ years experience in a similar role, with excellent organisational skills and a proven ability to manage a large volume of correspondence. Salary £18,000 p.a. plus benefits. Please call 0171 584 7020.

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An immediate opportunity for someone with good communication skills to join a company that specialises in organising hunting, fishing and shooting holidays. The ideal candidate will have 5+ years experience in a similar role, with excellent organisational skills and a proven ability to manage a large volume of correspondence. Salary £18,000 p.a. plus benefits. Please call 0171 584 7020.

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EXPERIENCE IN PUBLISHING

Up to £16,000

An opportunity has arisen for a confident graduate with experience of book production and good IT literacy to become a MANAGING EDITORS ASSISTANT with this leading publishing company. You will need excellent organisational and communication skills to effectively manage this challenging and varied role. As well as liaising with freelance copywriters, you will be responsible for the maintenance of the publication programme and report preparation and analysis.

£14,000

Self-motivated and thoroughly organised SECRETARY with book production knowledge is required to provide secretarial support to a MANAGING EDITOR in major publishing house. Working to tight deadlines you will undertake a variety of tasks including co-ordination of a book programme and management of production schedules. Good secretarial and IT skills are essential. Min 50wpm audio typing.

Call VERONICA on 0171 437 6032

RECRUITMENT

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RECEPTION

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NEGOTIATOR

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Please contact Julie Mansion.

Julie Mansion & Co Ltd
Financial Recruitment Consultants
101 New Street, London EC2M 4TP
Tel: 0171 621 1256 Fax: 0171 625 5259

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£25K+Bonus, 5 weeks holiday plus 40 days vacation. Working for a leading international company in the City. The ideal candidate will have 5+ years experience in a similar role, with excellent organisational skills and a proven ability to manage a large volume of correspondence. Salary £18,000 p.a. plus benefits. Please call 0171 584 7020.

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£18,000 AAE

For a stylish & together Receptionist to work for high profile Co with distinguished clientele & fabulous benefits package. The ideal candidate will have 5+ years experience in a similar role, with excellent organisational skills and a proven ability to manage a large volume of correspondence. Salary £18,000 p.a. plus benefits. Please call 0171 584 7020.

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0171 481 4000 (PRIVATE)

PROPERTY

FAX:
0171 782 7828 (TRADE)
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Southampton 9 miles, Salisbury 4 miles
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Central flat in purpose built
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TOWER BRIDGE PENTHOUSE

Luxury duplex with panoramic views
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Impressive five bedroom house
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Luxury three bedroom house
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Large detached house
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5 story classic house
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Attractively modern house
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Three bedroom house
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HOUSE RING

Culture vultures caught in the past

I came as a pleasant moment of relief in what was necessarily a gloomy newspaper on Monday, reinforcing the truth that trivialities lighten the load of vicarious as well as of personal grief. A couple of letters to *The Times* on the subject of that ancient joke that became a sporting prize and a cultural talisman: the Ashes.

Australia, by virtue of their superior cricket over the Test matches this summer, are the holders of the moral and spiritual Ashes. But the physical Ashes remain, as ever, at Lord's. The Aussies want them, but they are not going to get them.

It is always point, game and set to Australia, but never match. Every time the English play Australia and lose, they snatch moral victory from the jaws of physical defeat by invoking the Cultural Cringe. It never fails. Jolly well played, chaps, but you colonial rough-necks cannot be trusted to look after the actual prize, you know.

For England to play Australia at sport is always to play to the opposition's strengths. The Australians are, in the main,

better at it. There is more sport in the culture, less sneering at sport's simple pleasures. And Australians take international sport rather more intensely than the English.

I remember *Wisden* rhapsodising about the way in which an Australia batsman saluted his Test-match century by kissing the Australian badge on his helmet. I mean, jolly good and all that, but an Englishman would die rather than do that. And to watch an Englishman doing so would have most of us reaching for the sick-bag.

Australia lacks the English advantage of several millennia of war, and other carnal, bloody and unnatural acts. And so sport, of necessity, plays a greater part in history. It is a much larger aspect of how the nation defines itself. Donald Bradman played a crucial role in the defining of modern Australia.

And Douglas Jardine played a crucial role in defining the Mother Country in Australian eyes. His bodyline tactic, and Australia's response to it, was part of the making of a nation. For England, it was mild embarrassment.

SIMON BARNES



Midweek View

ment. For Australia, it was, and is, one of the turning-points of history.

No wonder Australians play their cricket hard and hardest of all against England. And yet they never win the final point. They hold all the aces, but England can always play the last trump: the Cultural Cringe. I say, old boy, how many Australians have won the Nobel Prize for Literature? And between gritted teeth they will tell you that Patrick White

(born England, educated Cheltenham and Cambridge) did so in 1973.

So we can bring out the Monty Python jokes from prehistory: the philosophy department from the University of Woggawogga, all the professors called Bruce and singing: "Heidegger, Heidegger was a boozie beggar..." Then the one about Australian wine, the peppermint-flavoured Burgundy brewed especially for the throwing-up market...

So Australia is still in the process of being discovered by itself. It has, and in buckets, that thing we English find so precious, so hard to find, so easy to lose. It has hope. It is, above all, a country of blazing optimism: that is why it is phenomenally appropriate that the millennium Olympic Games should be in Sydney.

England should let the Australians hold the Ashes until the English cricket team wins them back in fair fight. To do anything else would be to behave in a fashion that is uncouth, boorish, lacking in *savoir faire*, reeking of poor sportsmanship, graceless and churlish—all together coarse, uncultured and uncivilised. And that would never do.

Now I will tell you why the

Cultural Cringe exists and why it is made so much of. It is a matter of envy. No, not really Australia's envy of England's more ancient culture. No. Far more, it is English envy of Australian freedom.

Freedom from shibboleth and class. Freedom from the weight of history. Freedom to live in a big land with space to breathe. Freedom, above all, to invent yourself. Australia is no Utopia, for utopias do not exist. But Australia is still in the process of being discovered by itself. It has, and in buckets, that thing we English find so precious, so hard to find, so easy to lose. It has hope. It is, above all, a country of blazing optimism: that is why it is phenomenally appropriate that the millennium Olympic Games should be in Sydney.

TELEVISION CHOICE

An evening of exotic taste

BBC Proms

BBC 2, 7.30pm

Exotic night at the Albert Hall with the Royal Concertgebouw conducted by Riccardo Chailly returning to the Proms. They play the sharply contrasting *Three Preludes* by the Dutch composer Tristram Keuris, who died last year. The rapidly rising young Russian pianist, Arkady Volodos, makes his Proms debut with Rachmaninov's *Second Piano Concerto* and during the interval watch for "a dark erotic tale of lust and murder" in a film by Andy King, narrated by Fenella Fielding, telling the lurid tale of Bartok's *The Miraculous Mandarin*. The original text is set to a series of pictures, more than 100 of them, commissioned for this programme from the artist Mina Martinez. The evening concludes with the scarcely less lurid *Dance of the Seven Veils* from the opera *Salome* by Richard Strauss—and we all know what Salome got up to...

Tomorrow's World

BBC 1, 7.30pm

We can expect—but no preview tape was made available—a facelift for the 32-year-old science mag as it returns with new opening titles, a new theme tune, a futuristic set and that fishy little baby, now floating through state of the art 3-D graphics. Bringing his famous boyish enthusiasm into play as a presenter is *Newsnight*'s Peter Snow who starts his new job with a report on the final preparations for the "greatest race in history" scheduled to take place in Nevada's Black Rock Desert later this month. Can Richard Noble and Andy Green break the land speed record (and the sound barrier) with Britain's *Thrust SSC*? Philippa Forrester reports from Australia on a pioneering vaccine spray for diabetes and Craig Doyle challenges the world's best leeching of spiders with a new virtual reality technique.

Children's Hospital

BBC 1, 8.00pm

It's hard to know whether you need a strong heart or a strong stomach to watch this series. Both, ideally, as we follow the fortunes of Toni, a premature twin, born 13 weeks early, and seen undergoing complex surgery to close a hole in her



David Duchovny stars (BBC1, 9.30pm)

diaphragm. But this first episode does lure us in with a lovely bit of sitcom from Nurse John Horley as he tries (unsuccessfully) to contact the School of Tropical Medicine in London to ask whether a certain small dead snake could have poisoned the little boy who found it (it didn't). Then there's Martin Sowell, a bolshy teenager who "surfed" railway line and was almost lethally burnt by overhead electric cables. A gum-chewing Jack the Lad, he still manages a brave face as he is prepared for his ninth, almost unwaivable, scalp operation.

The X-Files

BBC 1, 9.30pm

The returning series seems to be straying more than ever into David Lynch territory... but it's none the worse for that and I am sure the co-writer of this episode, one David Duchovny, would be flattered. Though some of the characters will seem familiar, *Talitha Cumi* is a new tale which looks set to run and run. It begins irresistibly in the eponymous fast food restaurant in Arlington, Virginia, where a character we shall call the Gentle Looking Man stops a mad scientist and, with a laying on of hands brings those already shot back to life. But what is his connection with the sinister Cigarette Smoking Man? And how does Agent Mulder's mother—seen arguing with the aforementioned cigarette smoker and then collapsing with a heart attack—fit into the opaque scheme of things? Elizabeth Cowley

ROWING: LIGHTWEIGHT CREW DOMINATE REPECHAGE TO REACH WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS FINAL

Young eight give Britain fillip

FROM MIKE ROSEWELL, ROWING CORRESPONDENT IN AIGUEBELLETTE, FRANCE

JOHN DEAKIN, the cox, said that he could not remember when he last had a comfortable win, after steering the British lightweight eight to first place in their repechage at the world championships here yesterday. Britain beat Australia and Italy by 0.4sec and 0.9sec respectively, "comfortable" in comparison with Deakin's one-foot and two-foot wins in Henley finals this year.

The six-crew repechage, from which the leading four go through to the final on Saturday, was a classic. Less than a boat's length separated the crews to 1,500 metres, at which point the British were third behind Italy and Australia, and ahead of Germany, Denmark, and Holland. "We were still in pretty good shape," Deakin said, "and we pushed, rather than being sucked in by Germany." With 20 strokes to go, he said to the crew: "Let's go and win it." They did just that.

Jim McNiven, 32, rowing at four and a member of the British lightweight eight that won gold in 1994, thinks the present young line-up is just as good. McNiven, formerly a soldier, with operational tours of Northern Ireland and the Falklands, wore the black ribbon that will be worn by all the British team on Saturday, the day of the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales. Britain's coxed pair of Bob



Hunt-Davis, left, and Thatcher book a place in the coxed pairs semi-finals. Photograph: Mike Hewitt / Allsport

Thatcher and Ben Hunt-Davis, unexpectedly beaten by Italy on Sunday, made amends by winning their repe-

chage to book a semi-final place. They remained calm as Poland and Norway, clearly more rushed than the British, led to halfway. An impressive smooth increase in pressure swept the British to a controlled win.

"When we try and lead from the start, we overcook it," Hunt-Davis said. "It's fortunate we didn't win rowing like we did on Sunday. It gave us an extra race to get it right." Peter Sheppard, their coach, considers four or five crews to be of equal speed. "The crew that paces it best will come through," he said. Britain's two female scull-

ers, Gwyn Batten (heavyweight) and Jane Hall (lightweight), negotiated their repechages successfully, and progressed to the semi-finals.

Batten found herself in the familiar company of Maria Brandin, of Sweden, a former world champion, who beat her at Henley this year. Batten followed her race-plan to 1,250 metres, when she was in a comfortable, qualifying, second place behind the Swede. This contented her, and Miles Forbes-Thomas, her coach, said: "To go for it would have been silly and unnecessary." Jane Hall also qualified with a second placing and, so far, has

been beaten only by two other competitors.

The men's coxed pair of Mat McQuillan and Rory Morrison were Britain's first competitors to be eliminated yesterday, missing qualification by a split-second.

Britain now has three crews in finals, eight in semi-finals, and seven more—including the men's and women's heavyweight eights—racing in repechages today. After a request from the British team management, the Union Jack will be down at half-mast during any medal ceremonies involving British crews.

BOWLS

Price savours singular feat

BY GORDON DUNWOODIE

MARY PRICE stepped in to capture the Atlantic Rim singles championship in Llandrindod Wells yesterday after Margaret Johnston, the former world champion, slipped up in her concluding match, and then admitted that she is not really a fan of the singles game. "While I have enjoyed the competition over the last week, I do prefer the camaraderie of the team events more than singles play," the new champion said.

Price's statement is all the more remarkable as just last month she retained the English women's singles championship at Leamington Spa, becoming only the second player to mount a successful defence of the title.

Until last week, Price had not managed a win at this level of competition, but a victory with Kath Hawes in the pairs set her up for a unique double gold. "I've got myself into a winning position on a couple of occasions and then blown it, and now in the space of seven days I've won twice," Price said. "It's amazing how things work out."

A route to victory for the England international was opened up after Johnston, of

Ireland, lost 25-24 to Jo Peacock, the defending champion, from South Africa. Johnston had hauled herself back into contention despite dropping 18-10 behind after 18 ends. Helped by a count of four on the 24th end and three match-saving bowls, she levelled at 24-24 going into the 33rd and deciding end.

Johnston looked as if she was about to complete her great escape when she drew shot with her penultimate delivery, but Peacock sneaked



Price: unique double

in to recapture it with her third bowl, and when Johnston's last despairing effort missed its target, her chance had gone. Price, meanwhile, had been battling away against Mary De Lisle, from the United States, on an adjacent green. "I was trying desperately to keep my mind on my own game," she said.

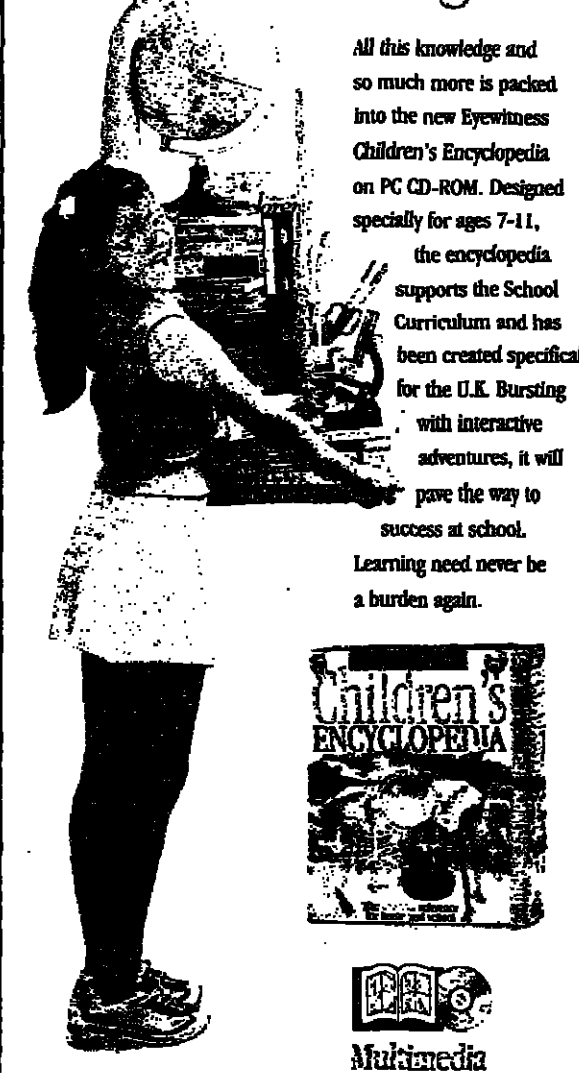
That she succeeded in doing as she ran out a 25-15 winner to secure the title. Peacock's efforts against Johnston just failed to give her a bronze medal as she was edged into fourth place by Betty Morgan, of Wales, after her 25-22 win against Jean Joubert, of Namibia.

South Africa, already assured of the four gold medals, finished in style with a 24-18 win over Ireland. The Wales rink skipped by Rita Jones took the silver after overcoming Namibia 29-9.

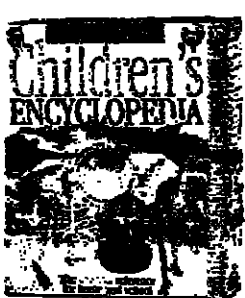
Scotland, on the same points as Wales but with an inferior shot aggregate, had to settle for bronze after their 24-13 win over Israel. Wales took the team event, with England second and South Africa third.

Results, page 42

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So what are the television schedulers to do?

We mustn't be too hard on the producers of last night's new series. They had as little idea as the rest of us of the circumstances that would see their fluffy confections parachuting into the autumn schedules to be met with polite applause but with the dull thud of indifference. So what, I scribbled several times last night. It was definitely a "so what" sort of night.

Out of fairness, therefore, we'll start with a programme that has a bit of momentum behind it. *Plane Crazy* (Channel 4), you may recall, is a three-part documentary about an American chap, who looks like a superhero but sadly isn't, setting out to build a home-made plane in 30 days.

You may also recall that after part one I had decided that the programme was not for me. Had I known what I know now — that Bob Cringely's efforts would end in double failure — I might have

felt differently. There is, after all, nothing that we British like more than a gallant loser.

The only problem is that Cringely — who starred, narrated and I have a hunch sang the theme tune — is about as gallant as he is shy and retiring. Oh, he began well enough last night, taking a chain-saw to the glass fibre disaster that it had already taken him six weeks to build. He was down, but far from finished. "If it meant starting over, so be it."

Yeah: way to go, Bob. But there's starting over and starting over. Cringely's version was to thumb through the small ads, find a kit manufacturer and then tell them what he had already told himself many times — that this was a great chance to be on television. It worked — within minutes we were off to Ohio to meet the Fishers, a family firm with just the desired amount of eccentricity to be telegenic. That

worked, too — the entire family helped to build the plane and Cringely and the camera crew got to putrifice (in both senses) the local Baptist church where the son had just become a preacher.

The luck of a countdown calendar meant it was difficult to tell, but I think the problems began on day 29. The engine, which allegedly had been recommended by some good 'ol boy in the backwoods (these are Cringely stereotypes, not mine) couldn't even manage a misfire. Not a splutter. No problem, the Fishers simply took an engine out of one of their planes and swapped them over. This sounded like cheating to me, but hey, anything that gets us to the final result. The new engine, at least, started and Cringely taxied happily up and down the runway — until the tail wheel fell off, the new engine stopped working and the producer

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

very sensibly stepped in and grounded the entire project. "We don't want anyone to get hurt." Unfortunately, he then went on to mutter something along the lines of "You didn't quite make it in 30 days."

Cringely was having none of that. They had to build it in 30 days, he whined, and they got the tail wheel off the ground. The producer sighed — he knew he had

evidence to the contrary, on tape. "A few," unspecified, number of "weeks later," Cringely did get what he was still stubbornly calling his 30-day plane off the ground, but by this time we were well into "so what" territory. And alongside was Barry McGrath's *Commercial Breakdown* (BBC1).

This unimaginative format has already seen off one presenter and it has to be said that McGrath is an improvement, even if — as a natural improviser — he doesn't always look comfortable delivering such obviously scripted material. It also has the advantage of being shown two days before the equally unimaginative *Clive James on TV* returns to ITV.

But before we get too excited about the autumn that lies ahead, it is worth considering the fundamental flaw at the heart of the BBC. Its raw material is advertisements, but not advertisements that went wrong or are funny

because of their failure to cross some cultural divide. These advertisements are funny because they were meant to be funny.

In other words, these ads are achieving exactly what they set out to, which is why we spent the evening watching some very good ones for the likes of *Cosmopolitan*, *Yellow Pages*, Club 15-80, Volvo cars and Jeeps... on BBC TV. Is this the future of public service broadcasting? I fear it probably is.

Anybody suffering from an attack of the "so what" during *The Grafters* (BBC2), a short and so far rather depressing series about young people starting work, can console themselves that it was as nothing compared to the monumental indifference displayed by Nick, whose sole ambition appeared to be to get himself sacked on camera. To be pleased to know he managed it. What do you mean, so what?

earth presenter: we'll be truly grateful for advice that will see us all rushing in to photo-booths armed with kitchen foil reflectors and coloured backdrops; and our first response to the 47-year-old male marketing consultant pompously refusing to wear the clothes that his 23-year-old girlfriend has just bought him will still be: "What a crass, hardened male 'so whaters' must make do with Jeremy Clarkson: *Top Gear* returns tomorrow."

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BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (75534)

7.00am BBC Breakfast News (75534)

9.05am Can't Cook, Won't Cook (2323048)

9.30am Sports Challenge (1161048)

9.55am Xmas (1511080)

10.35am Change That (1293135)

11.00am News (Regional News and weather) (4565203)

11.05am The Really Useful Show With Chris

Chen and Cheryl Baker (9505222)

11.35am Room for Improvement (2176222)

12.00am News (Regional News and weather) (6035425)

12.05pm Call My Bluff (9313116)

12.35pm Going for a Song (226777)

1.00pm One O'Clock News (112999)

1.30pm Regional News (17113203)

1.40pm The Weather Show (87078116)

1.45pm Neighborhoods: Karl decides enough is enough (117755796)

2.10pm Quilley (7841955)

3.00pm Through the Keyhole (7577864)

3.25pm Playdays (7598999) 3.50pm Chucklevision (8802715) 4.10pm The Thunderbirds (3404068) 4.20pm Morph TV with Tony Hart (2378203) 4.35pm Prince of Atlantis (6306080)

5.00pm Newsround (11792116)

5.10pm Byker Grove (11) (5681512)

5.35pm Neighbours (11) (829338)

6.00pm One O'Clock News (11) (77)

6.30pm Regional News (57)

7.00pm Big Break Stars of the Future: Last in series of the hot-potting game show for would-be snooker pros (4135)

7.30pm Tomorrow's World News (232323)

7.35pm Peter Snow meets the men behind the driving licences of British and American simultaneous attempts to break the sound barrier in a car. Phillips Forrester reveals new innovations in diabetes treatment (41)

8.00pm Children's Hospital: New series of real-life medical drama from Alder Hey Hospital, Liverpool (11) (3683)

8.45pm Points of View (11) (201319)

9.00pm Nine O'Clock News (11) (4970)

9.30pm The X-Files: Talitha Cumi (11) (12) Herding a new series of paranormal investigations with David Duchovny and Gillian Anderson (11) (427113)

10.15pm Making Babies: Tania and Ray's Story: Sixteen months on from the miracle birth of NTV twins Henry and George, parents Tania and Ray face their children's development assessment. Last in series (11) (774208)

11.05pm Soapdish (1991) With Sally Field, Kevin Kline An egotistical soap star is enraged by her producer's plans. Directed by Michael Hoffman (997574)

12.00pm Rude Awakening (1989) Comedy. Starring George C. Scott. A man who has burnt-out hippies avoid conversion to Vietnam by hiding out in South America for 20 years, but get quite a shock on their return to New York. Directed by Aaron Russo and David Greenwalt (484723)

2.15pm Weather (1119655)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes

The numbers next to each programme listing are Video PlusCodes, numbers which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+ handset. Tap in the Video PlusCode on the handset and you will be recorded. VideoPlus+ is a trademark of Gemstar Development Ltd.

For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Directory published on Saturday

SKY 1

6.00am Morning Glory (971023) 8.00am News and Weather (17425) 10.00am Another World (2650) 11.00am Days of Our Lives (95327) 12.00pm The Oprah Winfrey Show (8877) 1.00pm General Hospital (14525) 2.00pm The Bold and the Beautiful (14525) 3.00pm The Bold and the Beautiful (14525) 4.00pm The Bold and the Beautiful (14525) 5.00pm The Bold and the Beautiful (14525) 6.00pm The Bold and the Beautiful (14525) 7.00pm The Bold and the Beautiful (14525) 8.00pm The Bold and the Beautiful (14525) 9.00pm The Bold and the Beautiful (14525) 10.00pm The Bold and the Beautiful (14525) 11.00pm The Bold and the Beautiful (14525) 12.00am The Bold and the Beautiful (14525)

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BALLROOM DANCING 41

British couple take floor in pursuit of world crown

SPORT

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 3 1997

CRICKET 44, 45

Kent's tailenders lead push for championship



Spaniard's refusal to prove fitness brings Ryder Cup rejection

Europe rule out Martin

By JOHN HOPKINS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT

MIGUEL ANGEL MARTIN, the Spanish golfer, was summarily dismissed from the Ryder Cup team last night. He was replaced by José María Olazábal for the match against the United States at Valderrama, southern Spain, from September 26-28.

Mitchell Platts, a spokesman for the Ryder Cup Committee, said yesterday: "Miguel Angel, who, because of injury, has not played competitive golf since July 18, has been requested to demonstrate that there was a reasonable likelihood that he would be fit and competitive for the Ryder Cup matches. Miguel Angel informed the Ryder Cup committee that he did not think it was necessary or convenient in his recuperation programme to play 18 holes of golf at Valderrama on Wednesday [today], which would have provided this opportunity."

This abrupt announcement came on a day in which the uncertainty surrounding Martin and his fitness was replaced by sourness after an exchange of faxes between himself and the committee. Martin had refused to submit to a fitness test under the terms outlined by the committee and was maintaining his right to a longer period of recovery from his wrist injury than the committee was prepared to grant him.

"It's crazy, a very, very silly decision. I am going straight to my lawyers in the morning and I'm going to fight this as hard as I can," Martin said. "The Ryder Cup is in Spain for the first time and I am not just going to say that this decision is okay."

The Europe team could not be announced last Sunday because of doubts over Martin's health. It was said then that Martin would have to undergo a fitness test in Madrid today.

Yesterday, he received a fax from the committee asking him to be at Valderrama at 9am to play a round under the eyes of Angel Gallardo, a vice-chairman of the PGA European Tour, and two doctors. On his own doctor's advice,



The controversial exclusion of Martin has left the way open for Ballesteros, the Europe captain, to select Faldo, right, for the Ryder Cup

Martin refused to go. "I am not going," he said. "I can't play 18 holes properly at this time. I have been working with physios and they don't recommend that I go there. They are doing things every day for my wrist and my recovery would be harmed by hitting shots now."

The Ryder Cup Committee held an emergency meeting and decided that Martin had ruled himself out of consideration. "The Ryder Cup Committee and the captain are agreed that, currently, there is an indisputable presumption that, even if Miguel Angel was fit to play in the matches, which is in doubt, that he

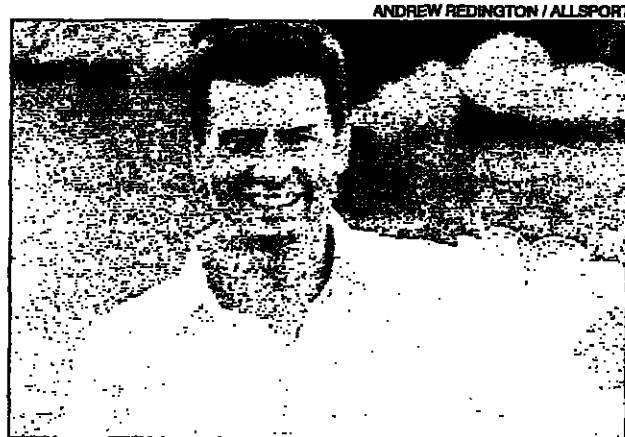
could not be competitive at Ryder Cup level," Platts said.

"The proposal of Miguel Angel playing 18 holes on Wednesday was intended to give him every opportunity of countering this presumption. As Miguel Angel has not availed himself of this opportunity, the Ryder Cup Committee and the captain have, with regret, informed Miguel Angel that he will be replaced," Platts added that the committee and the captain understood that Martin would be extremely disappointed, but hoped that, in time, he would understand and accept the decision.

It is a brave stand by the committee and they may yet be involved in legal action, initiated by Martin, who appears to have a moral case. He had earned his place in the team by the appointed date by finishing tenth in the points-

table, and the match was still three weeks away. He suspected that there was a plan to remove him. "I don't think Sevy [Ballesteros] wants me on the team. I am positive of that," he said.

Olazábal, who finished eleventh in the table, has now moved up to qualify automatically for the team. It leaves Ballesteros able to pick two other players, the obvious ones being Nick Faldo and Jesper Parnevik. A Europe team that does not include all



Martin's omission has removed the smile from his face

three is not Europe's strongest team. It is hard not to be cynical and question whether the committee would have pushed Martin quite so hard if the eleventh man in the team was Padraig Harrington or Paul Broadhurst, good players but not as good as Olazábal.

"This is a question of fitness, nothing else," Ken Schofield, executive director of the PGA European Tour and a co-opted member of the Ryder Cup Committee, said. "The reality is that this is a team. The committee's remit is to supply the captain with 12 fit players by qualification and wild card. If there is an injury to the tenth-placed player, as is the case this time, the eleventh-placed man automatically moves up." Ballesteros will name his two wild-card players after the first round of the European Masters in Switzerland tomorrow.

Scotland opt to play on despite funeral

By JOHN GOODBODY AND NICHOLAS WATT

THE Government last night voiced its concern at the decision by the Scottish Football Association (SFA) to go ahead with the World Cup qualifying match against Belarus on Saturday, when the vast majority of sporting events have been cancelled or postponed because of the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales.

Although five race meetings have been cancelled and cricket, rugby and football matches rearranged, the SFA decided to proceed with the match in Aberdeen because "there were insurmountable logistical difficulties in arranging a different date". The game will kick off at 3pm, four hours after the funeral service begins.

Jim Farry, the chief executive of the SFA, said yesterday: "This has not been an easy decision for the international committee to reach. We are extremely conscious of the mood of the nation and trust people will try to understand the position with which we are faced."

However, Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary, last night voiced his "great concern" over the decision. The Lord Provost of Aberdeen, Margaret Farquhar, said she would boycott the match in protest. "It is quite insensitive," she said. "They should take cognisance of the fact that Aberdeen is so close to the Royals and to Balmoral."

Football supporters in Aberdeen contacted the Evening Express yesterday to say that it would be wrong to hold the match on Saturday. Philip Greig, 43, said: "It would be totally insensitive and disgusting to play the game on Saturday just a few hours after the Princess has been laid to rest. I would rather give Belarus three points and retain some dignity for Aberdeen."

The SFA contacted Buckingham Palace, the Government, Fifa, the world governing body of football, and the Belarus FA for advice on what action to take. Although Fifa and the Belarus FA agreed in principle to a switch of dates, Farry said: "There were international pressures for the game to go ahead as planned."

The Football Association in England said that it remained "very keen" to honour the memory of the Princess by staging a charity match to raise funds for the Bosnian victims of landmines. A spokeswoman said: "The Prin-

cess was obviously very keen on the landmines issue and were already having talks with charity organisations before the Princess died."

Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, has confirmed that he is keen to help. He said: "We shall be talking about what can be achieved."

The finals of the world rowing championships, which are taking place in Aigue, belene, in France, may be moved. Fisa, the world governing body, has asked the European Broadcasting Union if it can rearrange the scheduled broadcast on Saturday. This would include the final of the coxless fours in which the British crew of Steve Redgrave, Matthew Pinsent, Tim Foster and James Cracknell will be competing.

Matt Smith, the Fisa chief executive, said: "We have, for the first time, got a two-hour live TV slot and the world will be watching the funeral, re-

Ferdinand dropped
Video verdict 42

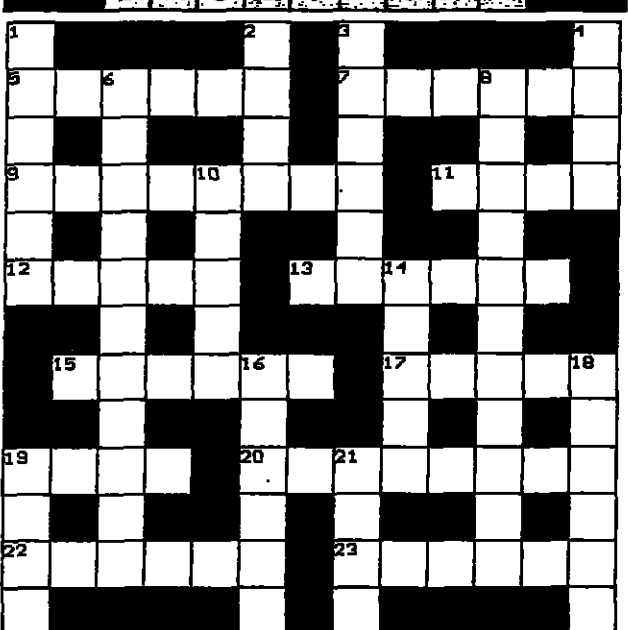
laved by the BBC. We have to be flexible and moving the time of the event is the only sensible option."

"There is no point having the event when no one is interested."

Smith has been asked by British officials to allow their rowers to wear black armbands and fly a black-trimmed Union Flag at half-mast if they should win a medal.

REARRANGED FOOTBALL MATCHES:
National League: First division: Burn v Tranmere (Sun, Sept 7, 3pm); Swindon v Nottingham Forest (Sun, Sept 7, 3pm); West Bromwich Albion v Reading (Sun, Sept 7, 3pm); Port Vale v Stockport (Tue, Sept 8, 7.45pm). Second division: Gillingham v Bournemouth (Fri, Sept 5, 7.45pm); Southend v Brentford (Fri, 7.45pm); Blackpool v Scunthorpe (Sun, Sept 7, 3pm); Chesterfield v Burnley (Sun, Sept 7, 3pm); Walsall v Wycombe (Sun, Sept 7, 3pm); Bristol Rovers v Walsall (Tue, Sept 9, 7.45pm); Fulham v Plymouth (Tue, Sept 9, 7.45pm); Northampton v Luton (Tue, Sept 9, 7.45pm); Chesterfield v Luton (Tue, Sept 9, 7.45pm); Bristol City (Tue, Sept 9, 7.45pm); Leyton Orient v Cambridge (Fri, 7.45pm); Millwall v Charlton (Fri, 7.45pm); Swindon v Torquay (Fri, 7.45pm); Hales v Hereford (Fri, 7.45pm); Colchester v Brighton (Mon, Sept 8, 7.45pm); Exeter v Cardiff (Tue, Sept 9, 7.45pm); Shrewsbury v Rochdale (Tue, Sept 9, 7.45pm); Chester v Rushden and Diamonds (Sun, Sept 7, 3pm); Lincoln v Kettering (Sun, Sept 7, 3pm); Huddersfield v Woking (Sun, Sept 7, 3pm); Town v Kidderminster (Sun, Sept 7, 3pm); Northwich v Dover (Sun, Sept 7, 3pm); Southport v South (Sun, Sept 7, 3pm); Slough v Gillingham (Sun, Sept 7, 3pm); Welling v Slough (Sun, Sept 7, 3pm).

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1189

- ACROSS
5 Provokes; sounds like visible (6)
7 Picnic basket; impede (6)
9 Sounds of merriment (8)
12 Dependent; suspend (4)
14 A liquid; held by the credible (5)
13 Say (poem) from memory (6)
15 Request to God (6)
17 One very prejudiced (5)
19 Applaud (4)
20 Very important red shade (8)
22 Make impatient move; means (6)
23 London borough; Oxford college (6)
- DOWN
1 Swell with wind; wave (6)
2 Hurt at animal skin (4)
3 Accuse; run into attack (6)
4 Square rigger; (Sc.) bridge (4)
6 Recall; revoke (eg orders) (11)
8 House of Henry II (11)
10 Tough; Eng. novelist (5)
14 Raised to third power (5)
16 Arouse (6)
18 Aptitude; ancient money unit (6)
19 Slap; part of jacket (4)
21 Remnant; sort of steak (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1188

ACROSS: 1 Rapacity; 5 Spot; 8 Verdi; 9 Midwife; 11 Lay; 12 Croissant; 13 Trade; 15 Invert; 18 Recondite; 19 Spa; 20 Bickers; 21 Exile; 22 Tied; 23 Hostelry.

DOWN: 1 Rivulet; 2 Percy; 3 Coincidence; 4 Tombay; 6 Primate; 7 Theft; 10 Disinterest; 14 Recycle; 16 Tragedy; 17 Ellasso; 18 Robot; 19 Spill.

SOLUTION TO TIMES TWO CROSSWORD 1184

In association with BRITISH MIDLAND

ACROSS: 1 Pick; 3 Penchant; 9 Petty; 10 Confirm; 11 Liqueous; 12 Flip; 14 Sinevy; 16 Tivvy; 18 Moor; 19 Cabaret; 22 Elation; 23 Swine; 24 Dietrich; 25 Knot.

DOWN: 1 Populist; 2 Cut down to size; 4 Excise; 5 Conifer; 6 Antinadversion; 7 Tonic; 8 Hyde; 13 Ill-treat; 15 Warrior; 17 Scenic; 20 Base; 21 Fend.

1st PRIZE of a return ticket travelling economy class to anywhere on BRITISH MIDLAND's domestic or international network is S Hooper, Chorley, Lancashire.

2nd PRIZE of a return ticket to anywhere on BRITISH MIDLAND's domestic network is S Franks, Bartlemas Farmhouse, Oxford.

All flights subject to availability.

Fresh approach puts Rusedski in the mood to tame Krajicek

FROM DAVID POWELL IN NEW YORK

GREG RUSEDSKI was standing on the steps outside the Arthur Ashe Stadium here at Flushing Meadows when a tournament representative from the Grand Slam Cup introduced himself. "You're in," he told the British quarter-finalist in the men's singles at the US Open. "Are you sure?" Rusedski replied. Confirmation was offered and Rusedski flashed one of his engaging smiles.

The assurance, though premature, sent Rusedski off in even higher spirits. The Grand Slam Cup, three weeks hence, is a \$6 million tournament in Munich, the richest of the year, designed for the 16 players with the best cumulative results from the four grand-slam tournaments. Rusedski has never appeared in it and, on the strength of his performance here and his run to the quarter-finals at Wimbledon, he is all but guaranteed a place.

Having arrived within one match of becoming the first British man since John Lloyd, 20 years ago, to reach the semi-finals of a grand-slam singles, and even with Richard Krajicek, the 1996 Wimbledon champion, barring his way, Rusedski was in ebullient mood. All he must avoid now is a repeat of his Wimbledon metamorphosis, when he strode into the quarter-finals with a crushing victory, only to be overwhelmed by Cedric Pioline.

At Wimbledon, Rusedski admitted to fatigue after a run of impressive form at Nottingham and Queen's. That, combined with the weight of expectation and Pioline's fierce service returns and delicacy of touch, led the Briton to defeat in straight sets. Having won

through his four rounds here in straight sets, and played fewer matches in the preceding fortnight compared with Wimbledon, Rusedski cannot see himself tiring here.

"I am a lot fresher than I was going into Wimbledon. By the time I played Cedric, I was a bit out of energy," he said. "Here I feel fresher, so I think I am looking good at the moment."

Lloyd, playing masters doubles here, said: "The difference I have noticed compared to Wimbledon is that he is a lot more relaxed. He has taken a big leap forward. His return of serve has improved immensely."

Rusedski added: "I am playing better than I did at Wimbledon. My groundstrokes are more solid. I have played Richard on five occasions and beaten him four

times." The most recent was two weeks ago in New Haven, when Krajicek was beginning to pick up form after losing his Wimbledon title. He lost there to Tim Henman and responded by taking a holiday.

"I was really down for two days," Krajicek, of Holland, said. "I did not lose to a much better player. I lost because I did not take my chances. It was my own fault. That really bothered me. I went on holiday and did not touch a racket for two weeks but I was working out, running, swimming, just sweating out all the negative energy."

Five tournaments later, Krajicek is back serving and volleying no less impressively than Rusedski, and his heavy forehand winners helped to make short work of Felix Mantilla, the No 12 seed, from Spain, in the fourth round.



Sampras contemplates his surprise defeat by Korda

Like Rusedski, he has not dropped a set here.

One advantage that Krajicek has is that he will not have Britmania to contend with. "I remember when I was a break up in the third against Henman [at Wimbledon], people were nice and quiet. It was such a beautiful moment."

If Krajicek was in good humour, so too was Petr Korda, the No 15 seed, from the Czech Republic, who put out Pete Sampras, four times the champion here, in a fifth set tie-break. Korda defeated the top seed and Wimbledon title holder 6-7, 7-5, 7-6, 3-6, 7-6.

"I am really proud of myself," Korda said. Proud, too, no doubt of the Freddie Garrity jump that he exhibited after securing two of his winning sets. New York loves a showman and, except for when Andre Agassi had been on court, there had not been applause like it.

Freddie, with his Dreamers, sang *If You Gotta Make A Fool of Somebody*. If no fool, Sampras was the stooge, his rare moments of weakness being ruthlessly exploited. Conceding the second and fifth sets from 3-0 up, Sampras had no answer to Korda's missiles on service and returns. This was Labor Day and Sampras was labouring.

"He passed about as well as I have ever seen," Sampras, who had beaten Korda in five sets at Wimbledon, said. Korda plays the unseeded Jonas Bjorkman, from Sweden, for a semi-final against Krajicek or Rusedski. Yesterday, in the lower half of the fourth round, Marcelo Rios, the No 10 seed, from Chile, beat Sergi Bruguera, from Spain, 7-5, 6-2, 6-4.

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